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FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT EDITION

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



Issue No 122  
Available from Wednesday,  
January 27, 2010



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## **JOBS...**

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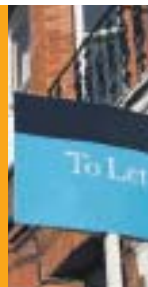
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promising for '10

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the local action

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# PCT ASSURES INJURY UNIT WILL STAY OPEN

## **WHAT'S ON & WATCH**

[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



Julie Maddocks finds out why now is such a good  
time to base a business in Kent. Search 'business'

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Picture GORDON ALLISON



## **PRESERVING HARE FUTURE**

While tens of thousands of rabbits in Swale are hunted down as pests for burrowing into sea walls and eating farmers' crops, its relative the brown hare benefits from the protection of the bio-diversity action plan - protecting species under threat.

Any temptation for hare coursers is counteracted with the threat of a criminal conviction together with their dogs being confiscated and vehicles impounded.

■ BY JILL HURST

A MINOR injuries unit in Faversham could save you hours of waiting time according to NHS chiefs who have promised to keep the centre open.

It was feared the specialist service, launched as a pilot just under a year ago, would close because of low patient numbers.

However, Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT) pledged its support to the centre where the majority of patients are treated within an hour.

Senior lead commissioner in emergency care Zoe Fright said: "The minor injuries unit at Faversham is not closing.

"We are committed to providing the best possible service to the community and the plan is to work closely with GPs in the area and the public to enhance the service further.

"Although the pilot officially comes to an end in March, there will be no break in provisions."

The unit, which is staffed by a specialist nursing team, has the capacity to treat cuts, wounds, grazes, infections, sprains, minor head and eye injuries as well as insect, animal and human bites.

Medical staff are also equipped to treat back, shoulder and chest injuries, minor allergic reactions and dispense emergency contraception.

Senior locality lead commissioner for Swale and Canterbury Neil Fisher said despite an extensive marketing campaign there were still misconceptions.

He said: "People often assume A&E treatment is better, but this isn't the case. Very

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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## WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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### TOP TV CLIPS



**1** Kent firemen return from their rescue mission to Haiti where their skills were put to good use. **Search 'Haiti'**



**2** Why Gurkhas are working with a 500-year-old weapon of war at Dover Castle. **Search 'siege'**



**3** Gills boss Mark Stimson looks to the future... and back at the FA Cup exit at Accrington Stanley. **Search 'Gills'**

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# £50,000 grant boosts church education fund

BY JILL HURST

PUPILS from a Faversham school dressed as vicars, monks and monarchs to celebrate a £50,000 grant awarded to a parish church in the town.

St Mary of Charity church was awarded the money by the Heritage Lottery Fund to fund an education project and share its 1,000-year history.

The grant was announced on Thursday, January 21, and children from St Mary of Charity primary school were invited to join the celebrations.

Parish priest, Reverend Tony Oehring, said: "We are delighted to receive this money from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It will enable us to actively connect the local community, particularly children and young people, by bringing to life heritage, history and Christian traditions of this ancient church.

"The money will be used to create education programmes, a website and DVDs. The money will also be used to buy child-sized costumes of characters from King Stephen's time including monarchs, monks and pirates, allowing the youngsters to act out their creative stories."

St Mary of Charity is the largest parish church in Kent and dates back to William the Conqueror. It contains a treasure box of history including a medieval painted column depicting events from the life of Jesus and 16 medieval stalls with finely-carved misericords or mercy seats created in the 15th century. It is thought the remains of King Stephen, William the Conqueror's grandson lie in the trinity chapel.

Reverend Oehring hopes the inter-



**EXCITEMENT:** Rev Tony Oehring celebrates the lottery fund grant with youngsters

active website will enable the church to build a virtual online congregation and act as a gateway for people to discover more about its Christian heritage and explore the archives.

Visitors will be able to view events to be hosted at the church and post their own photos and comments.

The Heritage Lottery Fund enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn about their heritage.

This year marks the 10th birthday of the national lottery and since its conception the fund has supported 16,600 projects, allocating over £3.3 billion across the UK. For further information about funding visit [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk).

The role of the education officer at St Mary of Charity church will be advertised in February. For more details visit [www.canterburydiocese.org](http://www.canterburydiocese.org)

yourswale

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Works extended by sewer pipe damage

SEWER repairs in Sittingbourne continue in Dover Street, at the junction with West Street, after the discovery that five separate points are damaged along the length of a sewerage pipe.

Southern Water had said work would be finished by January 29, but this has been extended to February 8.

Southern Water's Mark Macey said additional damage had been found in the Avenue of Remembrance, at the junction with Albany Road.

"Our team is aware of the understandable concerns of residents and businesses and every attempt is being made to minimise inconvenience. We continue to work with Kent County Council to ensure traffic congestion is kept to a minimum," he said.

## Poll's frosty reception

MORE than two thirds of people (68 per cent) who voted in an online poll at [kentnews.co.uk](http://kentnews.co.uk) believe authorities did not do enough to keep the roads safe during the recent ice and snow.

Just 32 per cent of the 439 people who voted thought the authorities did enough. Visit [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk) or [www.yourswale.co.uk](http://www.yourswale.co.uk) to have a say.

## In and out in an hour

FROM FRONT PAGE

often patients will travel to accident and emergency centres in Canterbury or Ashford and wait hours to be seen, when they could have visited Faversham minor injuries unit and been in and out within an hour.

"Likewise, those living further afield are welcome to use the service. Our goal is to meet the health requirements of the community while building a service with long-term sustainability and one that is able to maintain clinical standards."

The PCT will now work with GPs and the public to plan ahead. Items for discussion include the option of an x-ray suite and how best to publicise the hospital. The public is invited to open meetings at the Alexander Centre on Friday at 1pm, and February 2, at 6.30pm. The unit is at the back of Faversham Cottage Hospital, Bank Street, and is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. Appointments are not necessary.

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# Charities to face the music over licences

■ BY JILL HURST

CHARITIES across Swale could face a financial crisis after the Government announced plans to make not for profit organisations pay for music licences.

Many charitable organisations in the borough run on shoestring budgets of less than £10,000 per year and rely heavily on small fund-raising events to help them survive.

However, the new tax could force them to pay to use music at functions such as tea parties and discos, and even for voluntary workers who listen to music in charity shops.

Volunteer agency Swale CVS spokesman Sarah Williams said: "Swale is a vibrant volunteering community and there are about 800 community groups across the region. However at a time when charities are already pressurised by a reduction in funds this is just something else to worry about and could force some to shut up shop."

"The Government's commitment to the third sector seems weak and unhelpful."

Charities already pay a licence fee to music writers, composers and publishers but they will now also be liable to pay an additional fee to performers and record companies. The charge will apply to each individual fundraising event or shop and is expected to cost up to £100 per time.

A spokesman for mental health charity MIND said: "A lot of hard work and effort goes



**SOUND INVESTMENT?** Charities could be forced to pay a licence fee for playing music at functions and in their shops

into raising funds at our charity shops with volunteers giving up their time for free and it's unfair that we will have to pay this charge when the money could be helping people that really need it. The music licence will cost Mind nationally £9,000 a year and this could pay for us to answer 1,200 calls on our MindinfoLine."

The Association of Charity Shops (ACS) has launched a campaign on facebook to stop the change and 89 MPs have signed an early day

motion in parliament to fight the legislation.

ACS spokesman David More said: "This proposal is outrageous. It will damage charity shops and their fundraising ability. The charge for playing music will only be met by taking money that was intended to support charities. At a time when charities need as many funds as possible this is crazy."

For more information on the ACS campaign visit their facebook page, don't stop the music.

## Kitchen blazes spark warning

A SERIES of kitchen fires across the district has prompted a warning to householders.

The warning comes after firefighters from Sittingbourne were called to Coldharbour Lane at 7.19pm on January 23 after a hob ring, accidentally left on, caused nearby cardboard to set alight. The kitchen was badly damaged in the fire.

Crews also attended a fire in Lower Road, Tenyham, on January 24 at 7.42pm, caused by paper left by the side of a cooker igniting and spread to a nearby music system.

On the same day two crews were called to a kitchen fire in Clarence Row, Sheerness at 7.47pm where officers used a positive pressure vent to remove a high quantity of smoke. The cause of the fire is not yet known.

## Abandoned cars taken off streets

NINETEEN untaxed and abandoned cars were removed from the streets of Swale as police launched a crackdown.

Working alongside the DVLA and Swale council officers removed ten cars from the Isle of Sheppey, six from Sittingbourne and three from Faversham in the operation which started on January 11.

Once removed from the streets vehicles are taken to a police compound. Owners can reclaim their vehicles only after paying a £260 fine and providing proof of a valid tax disc. They will also be charged a storage fee. Cars that are not claimed will be destroyed.

To report an untaxed or abandoned vehicle contact Swale council on 01795 417850 or visit [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk).

## Benefit cheat found guilty of £13,000 fraud

A BENEFITS cheat from Sheerness was convicted of fraud and ordered to take part in a six-month supervision and curfew order after being found guilty of stealing £12,858.

Lesa White, 28, of Bramley Way, was found guilty at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court on January 18.

She falsely claimed £8,700 in housing benefit, £1,080 in council tax and £3,068 in income support between February 5, 2007 and July 6, 2008.

Miss White had claimed the benefit as a lone parent while living with her partner who was in full-time employment.

Swale council fraud team spokesperson, Janice Watts, said: "This case highlights the importance of reporting changes in circumstances promptly to avoid a criminal conviction."

Swale council has launched a crackdown on benefit cheats in the past year and conducts a range of verification checks.

Ms White's fraud was discovered after a spot home visit revealed her partner had moved into the property.

If you wish to report a change in circumstances contact Swale council benefits office on 01795 417714.

## Trio charged with stealing property worth thousands

THREE men appeared in Sittingbourne Magistrates Court accused of stealing thousands of pounds worth of property in a string of thefts across Swale.

Ricky George Bain, of Melody Close, Sheerness is charged with entering a Spar shop in Eastchurch and stealing cigarettes and alcohol to the value of £7,900. The 25-year-old appeared in court with two other co-defendants on January 20.

Stephen Ronald Eley, of Mallard Court, Minster-on-Sea, is charged with the theft of £2,500 cash, 1,500 euros, 200 dollars, designer watches and £30,000 of jewellery and a games console, together with designer travel guides and sunglasses from a residential property in Twydall Lane, Gillingham.

The 20-year-old is also charged with stealing a compressor and div-

ing tanks valued at £3,200 from the same address.

He is also charged with stealing £2,700 in cash from the Health Living Centre in Sheerness and £7,900 worth of cigarettes and alcohol from a Spar shop in Eastchurch.

Bradley Penny, of Clyde Street, Sheerness is charged with stealing a compressor and diving tank worth £3,200 from a residential property in Twydall Lane, Gillingham and £7,900 of cigarettes and alcohol from a Spar shop in Eastchurch.

The 20-year-old is also charged with stealing cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, games consoles, stamps, cash and phone cards to the value of £17,000 from newsagents Newsplus in High Street, Sittingbourne.

All three withheld a plea. The trial will be committed to crown court on March 17.

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## Magistrate details in prison blunder

A BOOK containing the names and telephone numbers of hundreds of magistrates was mistakenly sent for printing at a prison.

The Norfolk magistrates' year book ended up in the hands of inmates at the Category D Standford Hill prison in Sheerness, on the Isle of Sheppey.

Her Majesty's Courts Service's area director has written to all magistrates to say he is "desperately sorry" about the blunder, and all hard copies have now been destroyed.

An HMCS spokesman said security measures had been tightened.

## Women needed for apprenticeships

RAIL chiefs are appealing for more women to sign up to its award-winning apprenticeship scheme for railway engineers.

In order to address the male to female balance, Network Rail aims to increase the number of women signing up to train to be engineers from the current figure of just two per cent.

To find out more visit [www.careers.networkrail.co.uk/apprentices](http://www.careers.networkrail.co.uk/apprentices)

## Addict convicted of pudding theft

A HEROIN addict from Murston was convicted of stealing a chocolate pudding from a Co-op store in Teynham.

The court heard how staff at the shop became suspicious of Joanne Brunger, 26, of Ambleside Road, when she removed large quantities of meat only to replace them again. She left the London Road shop with a £3 chocolate pudding without paying.

Brunger, who has previous convictions for shop theft, was given a six-month conditional discharge by Sittingbourne Magistrates on January 20.

## Gardeners invited to seed exchange

GARDENERS are encouraged to attend a seed swap at the Abbey Physic Community Garden in Faversham.

The event will take place on Saturday, February 6 in Abbey Place and offer members of the green-fingered community the chance to swap commercial and self-collected spare seeds.

For details call 01795 539915 or email [abbeyphysic@btinternet.com](mailto:abbeyphysic@btinternet.com)

# Allotment scheme aims to promote healthier lifestyle

■ BY JILL HURST

LAND at a Murston infant school will be turned into allotments in a plan designed to inspire the community to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Volunteer agency Swale CVS is set to launch the project with the school and appealed for the community to get involved. While some allotments will be for the exclusive use of the school, up to 10 sessional plots will be made available to people living in the area.

Swale CVS project manager James Walker said the aim was to build a healthier and happier community. He added: "The allotment project is an exciting way forward and forms part of the Government's healthy eating initiative.

"We want people in the area to learn about healthy eating habits and what better way than by learning to grow your own. We also believe this project will help community members to come together and break down isolation."

The project is part of the healthy eating initiative and was made possible by a £3,000

start-up grant from the Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust via the Murston Project. It is due to launch in April and James said the charity is on the lookout for volunteer supervisors.

"We need to find two or three people who have gardening knowledge or are willing to volunteer their time. This may be someone who is retired or unemployed who can supervise the allotments and pass on skills to others.

"It's important for people to understand the allotments won't be for people to own or use as individuals. The objective is to work as a community or a co-operative and educate each other.

"Our hope is that eventually Swale CVS will pull out and the community will be left with a fully sustainable home-grown facility."

The agency hopes the first harvest, to include strawberries and tomatoes, will arrive in late summer when it plans to organise chef-led cookery classes and food events, turning the



crop into wholesome meals. Similar projects are being planned for Leysdown, Milton, Kemsley and Warden.

DIY store B&Q have pledged to help the charity, but it is also appealing for any gardening tools or unwanted seeds. To find out more, call James Walker on [james.walker@swalecvs.co.uk](mailto:james.walker@swalecvs.co.uk) or telephone 01795 473828.



## RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

SHOPPERS Ronald Pitts and Tricia Datsun were among the lucky recipients of free cash distributed at The Forum in Sittingbourne.

As part of its random acts of kindness campaign, centre worker Sally Bason gave away £300 in £10 notes to the bemusement and delight of many.

After being persuaded that it wasn't a con 80-year-old Mr Pitts, who visits the centre most days, headed off for a free lunch.

He and Tricia Datsun are pictured receiving their cash from Sally Bason in the Forum.

The stunt attracted a lot of publicity for the centre, and bosses have not ruled out a repeat.

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# 'We work with young and old to tackle crime'

Chief Inspector **TONY HENLEY** answers your questions on crime in the borough

**The elderly population are often perceived as the most vulnerable to crime. Is this a fair perception? What can they do to protect themselves from crime?**

Crimes against the elderly are particularly abhorrent and we need to make sure we minimise the risk to this vulnerable group.

Since April last year figures indicate that of all crimes committed in Swale 3.6 per cent of victims were aged 70 or over with many of these crimes being opportunistic in nature; 0.78 per cent of these crimes were targeted at an elderly person in their home.

Whilst I think we should take some comfort in these figures I do not underestimate the devastating effect these crimes have on the victim.

We do a lot of work with the elderly in Swale. For example we run a handy van scheme which visits the elderly and provides enhanced home security free of charge.

**Young people are often blamed for crime rates in Swale. What's the reality?**

The reputation is probably brought about by misunderstanding between generations as well as inaccurate stereotyping.

The fact is that there are far more victims of crime under the age of 20 than over the age of 70, which is something the community should reflect on.

The police have formed a county youth panel which invites young people to take part in surveys and meetings to discuss how we can improve relations and how they view Kent police.

Sheppey Academy remains the only school in Kent to employ a full-time police officer. This is an ambitious project that aims to give young people who live on the island the opportunity to meet and understand the role of police in society.

**There is a perceived problem of anti-social behaviour in Swale. What's the reality?**

Eighteen months ago a survey suggested that 25 per cent of people in Swale perceived there to be a problem with anti-social behaviour. Although this suggests the majority are unconcerned the figure is too high.

The launch of the community safety unit based at Swale House brings staff from the police, Swale council, Amicus Horizon and a range of other agencies together and allows



**RESPONSE:** Chief Inspector Tony Henley says police can't afford to get complacent

for a daily review and co-ordinated response to anti-social behaviour.

This partnership has successfully launched many projects including alcohol control zones and brought diversionary activities to young people such as youth clubs. It has also sought to tackle the more visible environmental crime such as fly tipping and littering.

New figures indicate the perception of anti-social behaviour is improving but there is no room for complacency.

A car now patrols the region from Thursday night to Saturday night dedicated purely to cracking down on drunk, rowdy and noisy behaviour.

**What is the good news for Swale?**

There are great people living and working in Swale and we see schools and colleges creating fantastic opportunities for our young people. We also see a lot of people giving their time and talents to the community to make positive changes.

I think the potential of Swale has long lain dormant but is at last coming to life. When we eventually meld the history and character of places like Queenborough and events such as the Hop Festival with the exciting development of Sittingbourne we will have a community which we can be even prouder of.

■ Names and addresses of questioners supplied

yoursware

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Bans for being over limit

NINE driving bans were issued to Swale motorists who were convicted for driving while over the alcohol limit.

The prosecutions follow a targeted crackdown by Kent police in a month-long campaign during December.

A police spokesman said further operations were planned to take place during 2010.

He added any criminal conviction would have a major impact on the lives of those found guilty including a hefty fine and the potential loss of employment.

## Old horse back on its feet

ANIMAL rescue specialists from Faversham fire station rescued a 21-year-old horse that was unable to get on its feet.

The team were called to a farm in West Malling on January 23 at 4.45pm and took more than three hours to raise the animal using specially adapted hoists.

Once on her feet she was able to walk unaided to stables.

## Drunken teen drove to shop that was only five-minute walk away

A JUDGE described an 18-year-old man as "extremely foolish" for driving to the shops despite being drunk and not having a licence.

Jessie Garon Gibson, of Glebe Lane, Sittingbourne, appeared before magistrates on Wednesday, January 20, to face charges including driving without a licence, driving without insurance, driving whilst over the limit and taking a car without the owner's consent.

The court heard how, on January 4, unemployed Mr Gibson drove the car, which belonged to his girlfriend's father, to a shop just a five-minute walk from his house.

Police spotted him driving without any lights on in Rectory Road at 5.45pm. After flashing him several times they became suspicious when he failed to respond and pulled him over.

Officers described him as appearing "dazed and smelling of alcohol". He was breathalysed and found to be over the drink drive limit.

Magistrate Mrs Linda Jones told Gibson: "It was an extremely foolish thing to do. This is going to cost you dearly." He was fined £360 including costs and banned from driving for a year.

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## Gills ladies' lessons for Lion cubs

GIRLPOWER arrived in Sittingbourne Lions in the shape of a 15-strong football team made up of schools girls aged 11 and under.

The newly-formed side got together just four weeks ago but have already received top training tips from Gill's ladies, captain Becky Lyon and striker Ashlee Hincks when they visited them last week.

Whilst at the club the two players awarded the Lions with a grant for £5,000 which will be used to expand the number of teams and age groups at the club.

The new girl's football squad are pic-



Picture RICHARD ANDREWS

tured with Gillingham's Becky Lyon and Ashlee Hincks.

To find out more about the Sittingbourne Lions visit [www.sittingbournelionsfc.com](http://www.sittingbournelionsfc.com).



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## TODAY'S FORECAST



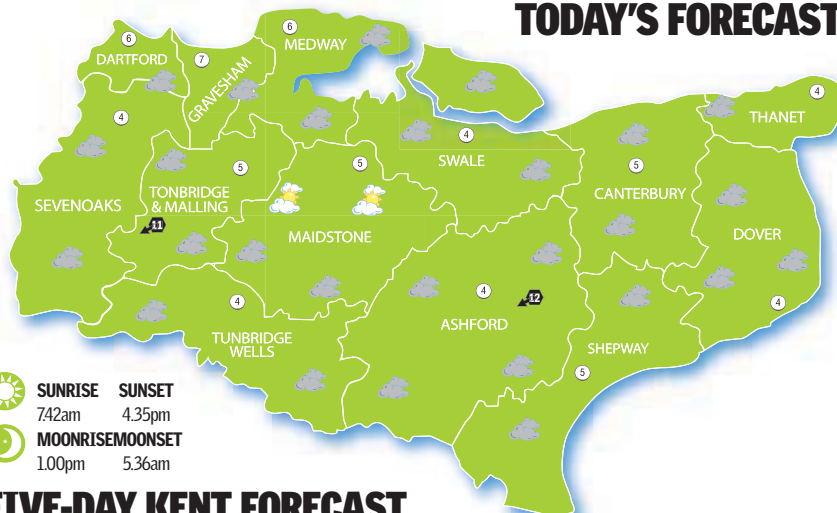
## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	12:43pm	6.2m
	Sunday	1:31pm	6.4m
Dover	Saturday	10:51am	6.7m
	Sunday	11:40am	6.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:53am	7.6m
	Sunday	11:39am	7.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:21am	5.1m
	Sunday	12:10pm	5.2m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:33pm	5.9m
	Sunday	1:21pm	6.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:37pm	5.4m
	Sunday	1:27pm	5.5m



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	-2°C	Madrid	8°C
Athens	7°C	New York	3°C
Barcelona	9°C	Paris	5°C
Beijing	-1°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	25°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	4°C	Tokyo	10°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	18°C	Warsaw	-18°C
Las Palmas	19°C	Wellington	15°C



**SUNRISE** 7:42am  
**SUNSET** 4:35pm  
**MOONRISE** 1:00pm  
**MOONSET** 5:36am

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	3°C	4°C	5°C	5°C	4°C	Gravesend	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	5°C
Canterbury	2°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	3°C	Maidstone	3°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Chatham	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	Ramsgate	2°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	3°C
Dartford	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	5°C	Rochester	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	4°C
Dover	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	Sevenoaks	2°C	4°C	3°C	2°C	3°C
Faversham	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	Sittingbourne	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	4°C
Folkestone	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	Tonbridge	3°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	3°C
Gillingham	3°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	Tun Wells	3°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	3°C

## Employee spared jail over stolen scratch cards worth £3,000

A SHOPWORKER from Minster who got hooked on scratch cards admitted to stealing £3,000 pounds from her employer to fund her habit.

She used the proceeds of her crime to fund a scratch card addiction which at its worst saw her spending up to £200 per day.

Louisa Milgate, of Minster Road, pleaded guilty at Sittingbourne Magistrates on January 20 to stealing money and stock from Martin's Newsagent's based in Sheerness.

The 30-year-old was caught after the manager at the store became concerned about the high number of till voids being processed.

A close circuit television system was installed which recorded Ms Milgate voiding purchases despite taking customers' cash and removing stock she had not paid for.

### Habit

The court heard that Ms Milgate, who worked at the newsagents between May 1 and September 9 last year, developed a gambling habit following the breakdown of a relationship.

A spokesman for the defence said that prior to her scratch card addiction she had been a model citizen who had a college education and had always worked.

He added: "She knows what she did was wrong and she admitted her crime immediately when questioned by the manager.

"She has been very open and honest about her compulsive behaviour. She has returned to live with her parents who have been very supportive and she is in a new relationship."

Miss Milgate, who now works as a kitchen designer, received a 12-month community sentence and ordered to complete 120 hours of unpaid work. She was also ordered to pay £85 in costs.

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### JAMES HEMING



**Q** Tell us a bit about yourself

**A** I am James Heming, 39. I'm from Whitstable and one of the presenters on Heart's Breakfast Show with James and Gemma. I am the James bit.

**Q** What is your job and what does it involve?

**A** Officially I am a radio broadcaster, which involves entertaining Kent every morning as they wake up on Kent's No 1 commercial radio station.

**Q** How did you get into radio?

**A** It was back in 1992 that I got my first break, but years before that in my early teens I knew it was all I wanted to do but had no idea how to do it, or indeed if I would be any good. And to start with, I really wasn't very good.

**Q** Ten years is a landmark, what are your feelings now?

**A** I just can't quite believe that I have been getting up at 4.30am every morning for 10 years now. Yes, it is a landmark, but it has flown by. I mean, when we were younger I'm convinced we thought a decade was a massive amount of time. It's been like being on the radio for the whole of the 80s, just not quite as revolutionary.

**Q** What are your highlights?

**A** One main one has to be being able to evolve to keep it fresh. I never thought I would be particularly good at evolving or changing.

My boss probably still thinks I'm not, but a lot has changed in 10 years and I'm still there, so I must be doing something right. That's a highlight for me.

Other highlights would be all the amazing places I have broadcast from around the world, my favourite being Melbourne, Australia. Three blokes in a hotel, the entire Victoria tourist board at our beck'n'call, helicopter flights, after-show parties with rock bands and writing our very own Aussie soap... what a week!

**Q** Any big bloopers you wish to share?

**A** There is only one that I remember, but I genuinely think it is the only one. I got so impassioned with a subject, I accidentally included the 'F' word in my delivery. I'll never forget the looks on the faces from everyone else in the studio. I immediately apologised and most people said it was the funniest thing they'd ever heard.

**Q** What other broadcasting goals do you hope to achieve?

**A** Blimey, that's a tough one. The commercial radio industry has changed dramatically

over the past five years or so. It's certainly not a place you can make your million just by standing in front of a microphone. Once, maybe, but not any more. It's a daunting question because I still have 30-odd years of work to go and this certainly won't last forever.

I'd love to perhaps end up on a national station and do radio that involves more current affairs. I'd love to be a foreign correspondent.

**Q** What skills are needed to be a good radio host?

**A** Realise there is nothing funnier or more relatable than the truth; remember who your audience is; and check that your character is someone people will want to spend time with. Try not to be like someone else – have confidence that who you are will be appealing.

**Q** What do you like to do in your spare time?

**A** Sleep, eat (less at the moment), watch great American TV series, go sailing and try to keep the peace among the children.

**Q** Anything you would like to add?

**A** Just a huge thank-you to everyone who has supported the show. If you weren't there listening, I wouldn't be here. I put a huge value on the fact that people choose to listen to us here at Heart, especially with so much choice around. It's extremely flattering. Thank you.

**Q & A**

The Heart FM DJ speaks to **Simon Robinson** about his 10th anniversary as a breakfast presenter, a trip to Melbourne in Australia which turned out to be a highlight of his career and one memorable on-air blooper

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**we did**

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# Nicole opens the book on a life with cancer

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

CANCER battler Nicole Dryburgh says she hopes the sequel to her inspirational first book will give further hope to fellow patients.

The 20-year-old from Whitstable was diagnosed with cancer when she was just 11 and has since suffered a brain haemorrhage and a stroke, leaving her wheelchair-bound, blind and virtually deaf.

But despite her predicament, Nicole has devoted her life to helping others and has so far raised more than £130,000 for charity.

Her first book *The Way I See It* earned her an army of admirers when it was released in 2008, with its sequel, *Talk To The Hand*, covering the hectic months in her life that followed.

Nicole said: "I've only ever had nice comments about *The Way I See It* and I'm really happy people have enjoyed reading it. It's been out for two years now and I still get emails almost every day from someone new who has read it."

"I decided to write the second book because my first kind of ended on a cliffhanger. I was still on chemotherapy at the time and having other health problems, so I wanted people to know I'm still here and fighting."



**FIGHTER:** Nicole Dryburgh is inspiring many with illness

"So much has happened since my first book came out, so it's a good way to let people know how things have turned out. It's different because I'm not just telling my story, I'm sharing my advice, too."

Nicole was a competition-winning gymnast when, at the age of just 11, an operation revealed a rare type of cancerous tumour close to her spine.

Through radiotherapy it was reduced, but two years later she suffered the brain haemor-

rhage that robbed her of her sight. This was followed by a debilitating stroke that left the youngster confined to a wheelchair, and in late 2007 tumours were discovered behind Nicole's ears that have practically destroyed her hearing.

Yet despite such setbacks Nicole has devoted her life to helping others and is currently working with the Teenage Cancer Trust to try to raise enough money to fund a specialist unit at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey.

She said: "I enjoy organising events and coming up with different ideas of ways to raise money. I know what these young people are going through, and that spurs me on to raise as much money and awareness as I can."

"I'd also like to write more books in the future, but I'm not too sure at the moment what to write next."

Named Britain's Most Inspiring Fundraiser in 2008, Nicole acts as a glimmer of hope for young and old people alike whose lives are being torn apart by illness.

When asked if she had any advice for such people, she replied: "Yes, just to stay positive and never give up."

"I believe a positive attitude can get you through anything. Obviously it can be hard sometimes, but just look to the future and keep smiling."

## Drivers get advice on cutting child deaths

MOTORISTS are to be reschooled in road safety as part of a month-long campaign to reduce the number of child deaths in Kent.

Police will visit 40 accident black spots to give advice to drivers about the importance of driving safely, while the 'stop, look and listen' method of crossing the road will be hammered home to pupils.

Officers hope the operation will lead to a reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured on Kent's roads, which in 2008 stood at 87.

A further 570 received 'slight' injuries.

Acting Chief Insp Preston Chalk said the campaign came about as part of the You Said, We Did initiative, which promotes police following up residents' concerns.

### Campaign

He said: "It's absolutely crucial that children are taught about road safety from a young age."

"They're often very frantic and enjoy running about, but it's important they know they can't always be like that when they're not in school."

"We hope this campaign will allow children to reflect on the consequences of running in the road and the impact it would have on their parents, friends and teachers if something terrible were to happen to them."

"Thankfully, the schools already work very hard to promote this issue, as do the majority of parents, so we are just enforcing the message."

The campaign – launched in partnership with Medway Council's road-safety team, Kent Highway Services and other partner agencies – was launched at Senacre Wood Primary School in Maidstone last week.

# Concentration camp survivor's lessons about racism

BELA Rosenthal was just six months old when she was taken prisoner by the Nazis.

Her Jewish father had already been killed at the infamous Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1942 and her mother's death was soon to follow when she was struck down with TB.

Orphaned at just two years old, Bela was released from the Theresienstadt concentration camp when the Red Cross took it over from the Nazis at the end of the Second World War in 1945.

Despite having little memory of the Holocaust, during which six million Jews were murdered by the Nazis, Bela – now Joanna Millan – has clear memories of her childhood.

And to bring home the terrifying realities and pay respect to those who died, the mother-of-three gave her poignant account to schoolchildren at St John's Catholic School in Gravesend.

Her talk was timed for just before Holocaust Memorial Day, which is being held today (Wednesday).

This year's theme is 'The Legacy of Hope', which encourages young people to learn from survivors' experiences.

Mrs Millan, who lives in London, is using her own experience to push home the message about racism and tolerance to youngsters.

The 67-year-old, who has eight grandchildren, managed to survive in the Theresienstadt camp – 50 miles outside Prague – thanks to a lady called Litska Shallinger.

Knowing that the food in the concentration camp was contaminated, Litska would collect vegetables and hide them under her clothes so she could feed the young girl.

On May 3, 1945, the Red Cross took over the camp and Bela was freed, but she was not to return to her home in Berlin.

"My first memory was being put in a house by the Russians, while they decided what would happen to us," she said.

"The British government said it would take up to 1,000 children, but it took 300 in the end."

"I was flown with five other surviving orphans – it was a very confusing time. There was no family for me in Britain, so I was put in a home."

She was eventually adopted by a wealthy Jewish couple in London who changed her name to Joanna.

Eight years ago, Mrs Millan, who is chairman of the Holocaust Survivors Association, married a Jewish man and continues to have a close relationship with her own family. "I think I've tried to compensate for what I missed out on," she said.

This year's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the 65th anniversary of the Auschwitz-Birkenau liberation.

Karen Pollock, chief executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust, which organised the visit, said: "Joanna's story is one of tremendous courage during horrific circumstances."

"By hearing her testimony, St John's Catholic School's students will have the opportunity to learn where hate and racism can ultimately lead."



**IDENTITY:** Bela is now Joanna Millan



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Page 41



# Police Chief defends E.ON security letter

## Fuller impartial over public's right to legal protests

KENT'S Chief Constable Mike Fuller has spoken out against accusations he undermined the public's right to protest at Kingsnorth power station.

Speaking exclusively to KOS Media, Mr Fuller denied claims made in the Guardian newspaper that he strayed from his duty to 'neutrally facilitate' peaceful protests when he advised the energy firm E.ON to take greater steps to disrupt any future activity on the site.

The accusations relate to an incident in October, 2007, when six Greenpeace activists scaled a 200m smokestack to protest against plans for a new coal-fired power station, causing more than £30,000 damage.

Mr Fuller has been criticised for suggesting in a subsequent letter to E.ON that the German firm should seek "legal remedies" – including High Court injunctions – to scupper such demonstrations in the future.

But he told KOS Media the advice was issued to the company in response to specific concerns about security at the site.

He said: "The company was treated in exactly the same way as any victim of crime, namely we provided it with the requested advice about security.

"Kent Police has a public duty to inform all organisations about any threat to their premises.



**DENIAL:** Mike Fuller refutes newspaper claim

"The letter is clearly advising E.ON to improve security to prevent further trespass at a site where there is the possibility of death or serious injury to anyone entering illegally.

"As Chief Constable I have a duty to the taxpayers of Kent to avoid excessive policing costs wherever possible, and that was what the letter was seeking to do by suggesting possible solutions to E.ON."

Nicknamed the Kingsnorth Six, the Greenpeace activists were all spared jail in September 2008, when they convinced a crown court jury that any damage they caused was justified in the context of the potential damage that would be caused to the environment by carbon dioxide emissions from a new power station.

E.ON said at the time it was concerned other protestors would see the verdict as permission for them to break in and damage important power plants.

Mr Fuller's letter to the company – which was sent about eight months before the trial – states that his counter-terrorism security advisors could help the firm improve site security, and that it was "grossly inappropriate" for Kent taxpayers to foot the bill for any of its shortcomings.

He told KOS Media: "We have not attempted to make any secret of the letter and it is available for the public to read on our website. It also specifically acknowledges Greenpeace's right to carry out lawful protests.

"Kent Police has always been completely impartial about legal protests and, as the Chief Constable of Kent, I have never strayed from my duty to remain impartial when policing demonstrations."

The accusations levelled at Mr Fuller represent yet more negativity surrounding the way the force has handled environmental protests at Kingsnorth.

Last week Kent Police admitted using stop-and-search powers illegally at the infamous Climate Camp demonstration in summer 2008.

Politicians, protestors and academics involved in the rally have always claimed the police response was disproportionate to the threat posed by the activists.

# MEP calls for burka ban to avoid 'divided society'

BAN the burka is the call from a top politician in Kent who says the veil has no place on the streets of the UK.

Nigel Farage is the former leader of the UK Independence Party and is a Kent MEP.

He said veils worn by some Muslim women, to completely cover the face, should be outlawed.

Mr Farage said fines could be used to dissuade women from wearing them, but policing this would be problematic.

But he insisted there are three main reasons why the burka, or full-face jibab, should never be seen in the UK again.

He told KOS Media: "I can't wear a hoodie in Bluewater, I can't wear a balaclava on the underground, and I can't wear a crash helmet in a bank – and all for good reason.

"This is especially true as one of the 7/7 bombers in London escaped because he had a veil over his face. So the security point is inarguable.

"Secondly, we believe the veils are being used as a way to subjugate women. In a society where we talk about equality of opportunity, and fair play for all regardless of age, race, class, sex, this is clearly being used to keep some women down, and there are forthright critics of this from the Muslim community itself.

The third reason he is arguing for the ban is help prevent the creation of a divided society.

Mr Farage, from Bromley, said: "All the main parties for decades have been calling for a multi-cultural society.

"And yet we are seeing a divided society of which the burka is



**BURKA:** Women in traditional dress

a symbol. We are increasingly seeing ghettoised towns and cities along with a rise in radicalism and even more worrying, the increasingly loud calls for Sharia law to be introduced.

"We want to live in a society that has one law that is applied equally and fairly to everybody. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams said two years ago that he saw the imposition of Sharia law in Britain's major cities as being inevitable.

"We do not agree with or want that analysis.

"The law has to apply to everyone or it is not worth a light."

The Kent Muslim Welfare Association was set up in the 70s to support its diverse Islamic community.

It said its vision is to provide a range of Islamic services for the local Muslim community in Kent, with a view to improving quality of life and enhancing community cohesion.

Anwar Khan is the co-ordinator for education and community cohesion, and he said: "It's about freedom. If women want to wear them, that is their choice and they should be free to do so."



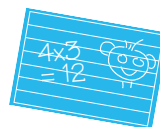
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## BREAK TIME

### Sleepless night to help cure leprosy

LEPROSY sufferers have been given a chance to be cured thanks to the efforts of a group of Swale schoolchildren.

Students at Fulston Manor School in Sittingbourne raised a total of £3,149 by taking part in a sponsored stay-awake night and the money raised will dramatically change the lives of 150 leprosy patients around the world.

A school spokesman said: "Each pupil was required to stay awake from 7pm to 7am. The entire event was a fantastic success and a variety of events such as footballs, film screenings and computer games were organised to help the evening pass fruitfully.

"The money will be donated to LEPRO, which is a charity dedicated to helping cure leprosy.

"With drug therapy a patient may be cured within six to 12 months and many disabilities caused by the disease can be corrected with simple surgery.

"The money raised will make life saving changes to these people."

### Book a place at Saturday college

A SATURDAY youth college was launched at Sittingbourne Community College on January 23.

A range of courses from cooking to dancing are on offer to students aged from nine to 16.

Classes cost £5 each. To book a place, contact Kelly Hickey on 01795 472449 or email [hicky@sitingsbourne.kent.sch.uk](mailto:hicky@sitingsbourne.kent.sch.uk).

# Pupil loyalty down to school's CVA success

■ BY JILL HURST

PUPILS at a Sittingbourne school are entering the sixth form in huge numbers because of its outstanding success, according to head-teacher Jon Whitcombe.

Westlands School, in Westlands Avenue, is rated as the third best school in the county and has reached the top three per cent of schools nationally on the pupil progress measurement scale of contextual value added (CVA).

Mr Whitcombe explained the measurement and how the school would continue in its mission to top the league. He said: "CVA measures progress per pupil from entry to school to the end of Key Stage 4. Clearly we are not satisfied with being third best in county and we want to be top.

"What is driving the success is our specialist school status, outstanding and personalised curriculum and dynamic leadership combined with very good teaching and a robust intervention programme. Pupils are opting to stay on because they feel secure at a school that is successful and can offer a wide range of courses."

Westlands is a foundation school offering education to children aged 11 to 18 years of age. It has an £8million operating budget and, as well as offering a wide range of courses, the sixth form has its own accommodation.

Mr Whitcombe says the sixth form results



Picture: WESTLANDS SCHOOL

**TOP OF THE CLASS:** Westlands School is rated as the third best in the county in terms of individual pupil progress

issued for 2009 were the best to date and will drive the school on to offer an outstanding service.

"We are constantly looking for new and effective approaches to teaching and learning which will help us fulfil our ambition to become the highest performing school in the county in terms of individuals' progress.

"Seventy-four per cent of our pupils achieved five A to C grades with 38 per cent gaining five

A to C grades in English and maths

"I am absolutely delighted with the tremendous performance of our pupils as reflected in the 2009 league tables. This figure continues to demonstrate that pupils make far more progress with us than with almost any other school in Kent.

"We are thrilled at that and the fact that it has led to a huge rise in the number of students staying on into our sixth form."

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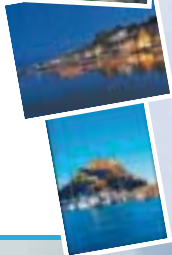
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# yourswaleblogger

Is it any wonder our children just cry 'day off school' at the sight of snow when teachers set such a bad example?



## The cold, hard facts about Ofsted attendance records

I LOVED the idea put forward by the county council last week that teachers should make their way to their nearest school on days when snow makes it difficult to get in.

And I was amused to hear that our teachers' employment contracts already tell them to do just that and they then had the cheek to criticise county councillors who didn't know.

Why, then, hadn't they turned up at their nearest school on snow days in line with their contracts?

Then I listened in wonder as a supply teacher phoned Radio Kent on the subject and squirmed pathetically about her colleagues' failure to do their jobs earlier this month.

She finally said yes, she would go to her nearest school... "if she could get out of her road".

Like many parents, I was again left incensed earlier this month by the ease with which

schools simply close up when there's snow... but it seems Ofsted (that bastion of ensuring standards) may actually be to blame.

Unfortunately we live in an age when teachers – who get loads more holiday than anyone else in the working world – believe that a little bad weather means they should have the day off school.

Without wishing to go on about this too much, surely if you take a job – any job – you agree with your employer to turn up on time and do the work for which you are paid.

Whether you are a teacher, shopworker or office worker, you have a responsibility to your employer.

Live too far away from your workplace? That's your choice – think about it before you take the job on. If it's going to snow, then if you live too far away, make arrangements to stay nearby – or, of course, take it as a holiday day.

But, with teachers setting their appalling example to our children, we now have a cul-

ture in Britain where snow means 'have a day off'. Fortunately our police officers, doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers still seem able to get into work when the white stuff falls.

And while you hear people say 'I can't get to work', you never seem to hear 'I can't get home' when it's been snowing. This is Britain, not Siberia.

So, back to teachers who finished their two-week Christmas break just in time for their annual fistful of snow days.

Why, you ask, do so many schools close?

Well, it seems that watchdog Ofsted may really be to blame. Attendance is one of the standards by which school performance is judged.

And if the school opens on a snowy day and children do stay at home, the school will be penalised.

However, if it closes for the day because of snow, Ofsted marks it with 100 per cent attendance.

So now you know.

### GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



**EMAIL:** Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: [yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk)



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### LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on **01303 817025** or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourswale.co.uk](http://www.yourswale.co.uk).

Write to The Editor, Yoursware, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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## TALK TIME

### ANDY SCOTT-CLARK

The deputy director of public health talks about his job and how health chiefs decide what to spend a £1.2 billion budget on



#### Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I have worked in public health since 1996. I was appointed director of public health for Swale Primary Care Trust in 2002 and took over the role of deputy director of public health for NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent on its inception on 1 October 2006. I have a masters degree in public health and I am listed on the UK public health register. I was born in New Zealand and I trained as a pharmacist in Wellington. I came to England in 1986 and like many kiwis I never made it back.

#### NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent covers a large area – what's the population, geographical area and budget?

The population of NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent is around 710,000 covering the districts of Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Shepway, Swale and Thanet. We have a budget of more than £1.2 billion and it's our job to work closely with the public and patients to identify their health needs.

#### How do you prioritise what's important for each area and the county as a whole?

Our key priorities for the next five years include breaking the cycle of inequalities, revolutionising services for older people, tackling the key killers of vascular disease, cancer and respiratory disease, promoting wellbeing and good mental health and transforming the life chances of disadvantaged people.

## YOUR LETTERS

### Wright's wrong about 4x4s

Gary Wright endorses the use of 4x4s claiming that they are the ideal vehicles to cope with our cracked and potholed roads (Why weren't our roads ready for the big freeze? Your Blogger, Jan 20).

Has it not occurred to Mr Wright that perhaps it is the prolific use of these monstrous Chelsea Tractors that is contributing to the incremental collapse of our road surfaces?

These craters and fissures can't all be down to the occasional weather cold snap as he fancifully suggests.

Even celebrity petrol-head Jeremy Clarkson described 4x4 owners (who don't need them for farm work or for crossing rough terrain) as "clinically insane".

If more people purchased the green, economical motor vehicles that Mr Wright sees fit to ridicule then we would notice a dramatic improvement to both the roads and our air quality.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury

### Send 4x4s back to the Eighties

I was most annoyed to read the article in Your Blogger, praising 4x4 vehicles.

I am sorry if I may be slandering the polite 4x4 drivers out there, but from what I can see, the bigger the vehicle, the bigger the wimp inside. These vehicles are driven by people who are afraid of the real world, but



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Beneath most stories on the [www.yoursware.co.uk](http://www.yoursware.co.uk) website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, [www.yoursware.co.uk](http://www.yoursware.co.uk) is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and all the villages in Swale.

We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yoursware before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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want to bully pedestrians, cyclists and those in smaller vehicles. The idea of there being any more of them is a complete anathema to me! A 4x4 vehicle is heavy, so is dangerous to other road users; it takes far more

resources to build, emits more pollution and uses far more fuel than a smaller vehicle. In addition, due to its weight, it damages the road and helps create even more potholes! And about the potholes: if people

drove at a more reasonable speed when they knew there were potholes waiting to be mended, they would save a lot of damage to their cars. I was walking along a country road last week and I was nearly run down by a 4x4 going far faster than necessary, and of course taking the whole width of the road – our local country lanes were not built for these huge vehicles.

My husband commutes nine miles each way to work, cross-country, throughout the year – by bicycle. In the snow and ice he just jumps on his recumbent tricycle instead, and carries on. We had high snow drifts around Deal, but he never had a day off work. I commute the same distance by cycling to the station and then putting my bike on the train, which I did through the bad weather. During the snow I also commuted for a few days by scooter along the main road, so I know it was gritted and practically pot-hole free – a 4x4 was not necessary.

In my opinion the only need for a 4-wheel drive vehicle is if you live on a farm, or down a track in the middle of nowhere. They are an unnecessary anachronism for the rest of us, and should be sent back to the 1980s, where they belong.

Name and address supplied, by email

## Government is off track with fare rise

Last week you carried a story to say that commuters face further fare rises on the railways.

Surely at a time when the Government is doing all it can to get people out of their cars and onto public transport, this is as

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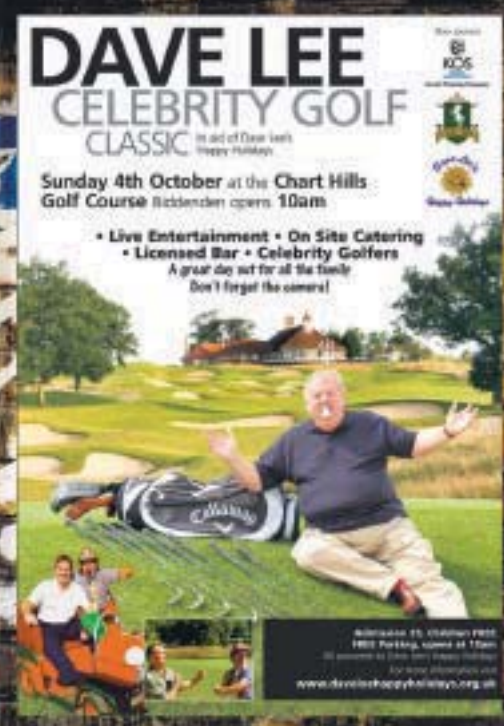
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counter-productive as it is possible to get.

If ministers were serious about pushing a more environmentally-friendly agenda then making it more attractive to use the railways should be at the top of the policy list?

Instead those who do avoid clogging up the roads each morning and evening are being further penalised.

Harry Edwards, by email

## Cheaper train fares is right destination

The story currently being featured about an increase in rail fares shows just how far behind current thinking our Government is.

Across Europe railways are subsidised by the Government and consequently fares are extremely competitive.

Not so here where the Government is refusing to put any more money into the network.

How can this be squared away with a commitment to reducing car usage and the consequent emissions?

Also a large amount of investment has gone into the railways with the high speed train network across Kent.

This must mean that those in charge want people to use it.

So cheaper fares is surely the way forward.

Brian Collins, by email

## We were walking in a winter blunderland

As well as the roads being unprepared during the recent cold weather the pavements were left like a skating rink.

Not only was it very hazardous to drive – walking was even worse.

I lost count of the number of people I saw slipping around and a fall on a concrete pavement – even when covered in snow – is never pleasant.

Maria King, by email

## Kent is Key for cricket captain

Sad to see a certain Rob Key attracted not one iota of interest from any Indian Premier League club when he put himself forward to play in cricket's most glamorous and lucrative tournament.

Let's hope he got the message – it's only Kent that wants and needs

you so that's who you should concentrate on.

Mike Swift, by email

## Nominate an adult learner for an award

The deadline to nominate people for Adult Learners' Week Awards is approaching. These awards are a great way to celebrate the inspirational, outstanding and remarkable achievements of all adult learners.

You can nominate individuals, groups, families and even projects who deserve recognition for their efforts and who will inspire others to transform their lives through learning.

Visit [www.alw.org.uk/nominate](http://www.alw.org.uk/nominate) to fill out an online application, email [alw@niace.org.uk](mailto:alw@niace.org.uk), or phone 0116 204 4200 for more information. Nominations close at 5pm on Friday, January 29, 2010. Everyone who is nominated receives a certificate.

The awards are the highlight of Adult Learners' Week, co-ordinated by NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education,) which is the UK's largest and longest running festival of learning. This year it runs from May 15 to 21.

Richard Crabb, NIACE, by email

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## yourleisure

# Murder on his mind

Reality TV star Lee Mead, who won the West End role of Joseph, is turning his hand to a classic comedy part

### LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME

Monday to Saturday, February 1-6  
The Churchill, Bromley



FROM Biblical visions to dark prophecies of the future, Lee Mead is making another leap of faith.

The song-and-dance man shot to fame when he appeared in the BBC talent-search show Any Dream Will Do in which aspiring musical stars battled to become "the people's Joseph".

Mead saw off tough competition from 19 other hopefuls to win the title role in Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in 2007 and he played the character to packed houses until early last year.

His debut solo album, Nothing Else Matters, sold almost 200,000 copies and he recently released his second album. But now he returns to the stage to take on the lead role in the witty Oscar Wilde comedy Lord Arthur Savile's Crime which sees him dealing with very different predictions of the future.

Lord Arthur Savile enjoys a privileged position in life and could hardly be happier – he is considered a pillar of Victorian society and is looking forward to getting married. With the lovely Sybil Merton promised as his bride, the future looks bright for the wealthy young man.

However, things take a dark turn when Lord Arthur is introduced to a clairvoyant by the name of Podgers who announces that the nobleman will commit a murder at some time in his future.

Haunted by the prophecy and desperate to protect his bride-to-be, Lord Arthur decides to carry out the deed before he marries. So begins a hunt for the perfect victim, but murder turns out to be more difficult than he had anticipated.

Mead is joined on stage by popular entertainer Gary Wilmot, who has recently appeared in a national tour of Chicago and starred in West End productions of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Copacabana and Me & My Girl.

Dynasty star Kate O'Mara brings a touch of glamour to the cast, having also starred in television shows such as Howard's Way and Bad Girls.

David Ross has appeared in comedies such as The Green Green Grass, Red Dwarf and Goodnight Sweetheart, while Darren Nesbitt is best known for his roles in TV drama Special Branch and the classic film Where Eagles Dare.

To book tickets, phone the box office on 0844 871 7620 or alternatively visit the website at [www.ambassadortickets.com/bromley](http://www.ambassadortickets.com/bromley).



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## THE REVENGE OF RUMPELSTILTSKIN

Sunday, January 31  
Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne

MUSIC and comedy combine in The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin.

This clever show-within-a-show from Miracle Theatre Company is a high-energy production which revisits the heyday of Georgian theatre. The year is 1830 and the Ffitch Repertory Players have ambitions to bring the glamour of pantomime to ordinary folk. With their lavish production, The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin, they hope to entertain provincial audiences. Armed with a handsome prince, a scary fairy and a few mechanical swans, success looks certain.

However, this group of neurotic thespians cannot escape drama, with the prince proving that he cannot be trusted with scissors



and tantrums behind the scenes. Visiting venues in Kent as part of Applause Rural Touring's spring season, The Revenge of Rumpelstiltskin is a rich and multi-layered show that is

full of laughter and wonder.

The show starts at 4pm and tickets cost £5/£3.50 or £15 for families. To book email [admin@avenue-theatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@avenue-theatre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01795 471140.

## SHEPHERD NEAME

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Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham

FROM guided tours to steam train journeys, Shepherd Neame has a packed programme of events on offer this season.

The Winter Beer and Food Evening takes place this Saturday and on Saturday, February 6. Visitors can learn all about brewing with a guided brewery tour, followed by a delicious four-course meal accompanied by specially-selected ales and lagers.

A tasty Sunday roast will make the ideal treat for Mother's Day on March 14, while a tutored tasting with one of the Masters of Beers will make an unusual Easter Sunday day out.

Learn about the brewery and enjoy a two-course meal during the Ale Samplers' Supper events on April 9 and May 28. The Spring Beer and Food Evening takes place on May 7 and visitors can admire the brewery's collection of vintage delivery vehicles at the Faversham Classic Car and Motorcycle Show on May 16. Rail enthusiasts can hitch a ride on the Spitfire Steam Train to London and Sheerness.

To find out more visit [www.shepherd-neame.co.uk](http://www.shepherd-neame.co.uk) or call 01795 542016.



## DAVE GORMAN

Friday, February 5  
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

COMEDIAN Dave Gorman got on his bike last year to bring laughter to fans across Britain.

For his 2009 tour, Gorman decided to travel in eco-friendly style and cycle from venue to venue. Because of this pledge, the comic covered more than 1,500 miles in 33 days, performing a gig each night.

The aptly-named tour – Dave Gorman: Sit Down, Pedal, Pedal, Stop and Stand Up – was such a success that demand has continued into this year, but now Gorman is ditching the bicycle.

Gorman is something of a pioneer in the field of documentary comedy, having undertaken various experiments and road trips in search of laughs. But next month's show sees him going back to his roots as a stand-up comedian. It is the same show he toured last year, which was described by critics as 'mercilessly sharp and original', just without the bicycle clips and blisters.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £10. They're selling fast, so book now by calling 01227 769075 or go to [www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk](http://www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk).



## SWALE LEISURE

### Alchemy promise night of pure gold at club

ALCHEMY will perform for Faversham Folk Club tonight.

Tickets for the show at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street at 8pm cost £6 for members and £7 for non-members.

Next Wednesday folk fans are invited to a singers night. Admission costs £1. For more information visit [www.favershamfolkclub.net](http://www.favershamfolkclub.net) or call 01795 534368.

### Bad Pennies turn up again for rocking gig

FOR an evening of top rock and blues music, head down to the Fountain pub in Sittingbourne.

Bad Pennies is a Medway-based band that pays tribute to the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Rory Gallagher, Thin Lizzy, Gary Moore and more. Find out more at [www.badpennies.co.uk](http://www.badpennies.co.uk).

They will be at the venue in Station Street on Saturday. For details call the pub on 01795 472015.

### Go back to the origins of ska with Arthur K

CELEBRATE one of the unsung heroes of ska when Arthur K and the Originals visit Whitstable.

Arthur K's first records helped to get the ska movement off the ground in the 70s and his influence is still felt today.

The concert will be held at the Horsebridge Arts and Community Centre at 8pm on Friday and tickets cost £8. For details go to [www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk](http://www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk) or call 01227 281174.

### Join Big Birdwatch to help work of RSPB

SPEND an hour observing the bird life in your garden this weekend as part of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.

The results help the RSPB to monitor species numbers and take action to protect Britain's birds.

Resources to help with your birdwatch can be downloaded at [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) or call 0300 456 8330 by Friday (Jan 29) to request a form.

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# Dishes show variety really is spice of life

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THE Twydall Tandoori prides itself on offering a wide range of Indian dishes, bringing together a vast range of the cuisines which the sub-continent offers.

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The area was lacking a good quality restaurant when the venture was first established, but that has been well and truly rectified as diners take their meals in comfortable surroundings.

A recent refurbishment has added to the quality and this August will see the restaurant's ninth anniversary of supplying quality food to discerning diners.

All the dishes are prepared individually, and fresh spices are used in order that the full flavour and variety of the food can be appreciated by diners, who know they want that little bit more than is offered at the usual run-of-the-mill curry house.

The restaurant can cater for families, with high chairs available on request for very young children. Birthdays, stag and hen parties are also catered for.



At weekends the restaurant can get busy so recommendations are advised.

There is also a banquet night held every Tuesday, where customers can choose any items on the menu for a set price.

Customers can order a takeaway over the telephone and collect their orders within 15-

20 minutes. A 10 per cent discount is offered on orders over £10.

The restaurant is open for lunch from noon to 2.30pm and for dinner from 5.30-11.30pm, although it closes at 10pm on Sundays.

**Twydall Tandoori Restaurant, 50 Twydall Green, Gillingham, ME8 6XJ 01634 386110/267141**

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**SWALE SHOPPING**

**Have you got a heart of gold? Alesha Dixon has**

SHOW you have a heart by supporting the Variety Club's 19th Gold Heart Appeal.

Strictly Come Dancing star Alesha Dixon is ambassador for the appeal, which raises money to help sick and disadvantaged children and young people.

The new Gold Heart badges, which cost £1, will be available from Co-operative, H Samuel, Cineworld and Odeon, along with a number of other venues, from tomorrow, or at [www.varietyclub.org.uk](http://www.varietyclub.org.uk).

**We'll all be seeing red next month for charity**

PAINT the town red next month in support of the British Heart Foundation National Heart Month.

People across Kent are invited to see red during February and raise money for the charity. Thousands of people are already planning red-themed events.

On Friday, February 26, National Wear Red Day will provide more opportunities to raise money. For advice, phone Kim Brophy on 01580 754027 or email [brophyk@bhf.org.uk](mailto:brophyk@bhf.org.uk).

**Become Disney royalty at the Bluewater store**

LITTLE princes and princesses can learn how to behave like royalty at the Disney Store at Bluewater.

To celebrate the release of new Disney film The Princess and the Frog, the store will be hosting a Royal Academy this Saturday and every Saturday morning throughout February.

Young royals can learn how to perfect their etiquette, draw and animate the frog and take part in a storytelling session. See more at [www.disneystore.co.uk](http://www.disneystore.co.uk).

**Look amazing in skinny jeans – they're wizard**

IF the New Year fitness regime has not seen results just yet, Glamour 24/7 Wizard jeans could be the answer.

Help is at hand for anyone who despairs of fitting into slimline jeans as the company claims that Wizard jeans can flatten tummies, lift bottoms and make anyone's legs look as long as a supermodel's.

Priced from £95, the jeans come in blue, black and white, with a Swarovski crystal detail option on the black jeans. See [www.glamour247.com](http://www.glamour247.com).

**Get your teeth into Waterstone's group**

ACCLAIMED vampire story Let the Right One In is one of the novels being discussed by the Westwood Cross Waterstone's book group.

The tale by John Ajvide Lindqvist is joined by Philip K Dick's A Scanner Darkly and The Dumas Club by Arturo Perez-Reverte.

The group meets at Caffè Nero on the first Tuesday of every month and the next meeting is at 5.45pm on Tuesday. Just turn up or join the discussion on Facebook.

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# yourswalemusic

## Folk scene starts fightback against neo-Nazi infiltrators

BY DOMINIC GREENWOOD

A GIG aimed at keeping fascism out of folk music – and showcasing some of the best young folk talent in the UK – takes place in Maidstone next month.

Wheeler Street, Los Salvadores and the Didi Bergman Trio will perform at Flaming Henry's under the Folk Against Fascism banner.

Organiser Helen Treacy said: "The BNP is trying to distance itself from its past – the association with neo-Nazi bands like Skrewdriver – and position themselves as the defenders of British traditions.

"The party manifesto encourages members to infiltrate their local folk scene through funding and reviving local traditions. They have also been selling the work of respected musicians through their website, with the implication the artists support their views.

"The folk scene has reacted with revulsion as we are a welcoming, friendly and inclusive lot, and our politics couldn't be further away from the BNP's racism, neo-Nazism and thuggery.

"We want to make it absolutely clear that we do not support their policies and we resist their attempts to take over our culture."

The line-up includes some of the country's most hotly-tipped new folk bands.

Headline act Wheeler Street [www.myspace.com/wheelerstreet], named after the road in their home town of Maidstone, have proved themselves a major draw on the national folk circuit and boast appearances at Glastonbury and Cambridge



**CALLING THE TUNE:** Three acts will perform at the Folk Against Fascism concert next month

Folk Festival. The seven-piece play a variety of traditional instruments and throw electric guitar and drums into the mix, giving their music a contemporary feel. Los Salvadores [www.myspace.com/lossalvadores], appearing as a three-piece for this gig, have also established themselves on the national festival scene, writing catchy, energetic songs inspired by Kent folk legends.

Helen said: "Wheeler Street are a brilliant, young, lively folk band who represent everything that is exciting about the current scene.

"I have seen them live many times now and know they will put on a great show.

"I asked Los Salvadores to play because I have been a fan of their brand of energetic folk since I saw them busking in the garden of my local pub one Saturday afternoon. They are very politically aware so were happy to support the cause."

Opening the night will be popular Medway singer-songwriter Didi Bergman [www.myspace.com/didibergman].

Helen said: "Didi is a wonderful singer from Medway who went down a storm at the Sweeps Festival in Rochester – her voice reminds me of the late Sandy Denny.

"She was also keen to perform and make a stand against what the BNP are trying to do.

"The acts have generously offered to play for reduced fees, so after covering expenses I'm hoping to make a sizeable donation to Folk Against Fascism's running costs.

"We will also keep a little aside to go towards future gigs. We have a long wish list of artists we'd like to book and are hoping FAF gigs will become a regular feature of the Maidstone folk scene."

The Folk Against Fascism fundraiser is on Thursday, February 4, at Flaming Henry's banquet hall (above the restaurant), 62 to 63 High Street, Maidstone.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £10 from wegotickets.com, or £12 on the door. There will be a 25 per cent meal discount for ticket holders. For more details, visit the website [www.folkagainstfascism.com](http://www.folkagainstfascism.com).

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Lounge on the Farm 2009 highlights, with Los Salvadores. Search 'Lounge'



Watch Callista's audition for the Britain's Got Talent TV show. Search 'Callista'



### TOP FIVE KENT CHART

- 1 We Are Tides – Mice and Men (from Canterbury)
- 2 Gristlefridge – Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 3 Shelta – Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 4 The Flack – Forget Me (from Deal)
- 5 The Keytones – Autumn Time (from Canterbury)

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## ON GENERAL RELEASE

### BROTHERS (15)



In Jim Sheridan's remake of Danish drama Brodre, two siblings are divided by their bond to the same woman. Tobey Maguire is a soldier whose mental wounds threaten to tear his family apart.

### SEX & DRUGS & ROCK & ROLL (15)



Distinguished by an incendiary lead performance from Andy Serkis, Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll is a biopic of 1970s punk pioneer Ian Dury that is as unconventional and fantastical as the man himself.

### UP IN THE AIR (15)



George Clooney plays a loveless man who earns his living by flying around America and making total strangers redundant in Jason Reitman's comedy drama.

# Clive drops the act to show who's the daddy

■ BY SHEREEN LOW

CLIVE Owen has attracted thousands of female fans by smouldering his way through films such as Closer, Sin City and Duplicity. Yet his own girls are keen to see him play a new kind of role.

The 45-year-old star says his daughters Hannah and Eve would like him to do more family-friendly roles.

"They're very keen for me to do a film to give them bragging rights at school," he laughs.

Owen's latest film, The Boys Are Back, is a step in that direction.

In the drama, based on journalist Simon Carr's memoirs and shot in Australia, Owen plays Joe Warr, who struggles with being a single parent to his six-year-old son after his wife dies of cancer.

The 45-year-old admits his own experience of fatherhood was "a huge part of wanting to do the film".

"I'm a parent and it's a big part of my life. I recognised I had similar experiences to a lot of things in this movie, so it felt familiar," he says.

Besides its appeal as a more family-focused drama, it was really the script that captured Owen's imagination.

"It's a beautiful script. I thought it was unusual in its delicacy and intelligence in exploring these relationships, and a beautiful exploration of both grief and parenting."

He adds: "It wasn't sentimental, it was precise. I found it terribly moving when I got to the scene where Joe was telling his son that his mother might not be around much longer. I found the whole conversation upsetting."

The Coventry-born actor made it clear to



FATHERHOOD: Clive Owen takes on a more caring role

director Scott Hicks that he wanted a film steeped in reality.

"I'd seen lots of family movies where the family is in this lovely, warm bubble, and even when things get tough, it's all very sweet."

"Real families aren't like that – it's much more volatile than that and this script explored that in a very honest way," he says.

Owen, married to wife Sarah-Jane, brought his real-life experiences as a dad into the role.

"I didn't have the huge, tragic loss that they have, but in terms of the ups and downs of parenting, I felt I've experienced quite a few of them," he says.

"I was interested in the scenes showing the tougher times in the film, for example when

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the kid has a tantrum in the car. I could relate to that scene and I was interested to make that tough for my character because all parents will relate."

The Boys Are Back follows Joe as he gets to grips with parenthood and adopts his own way of parenting.

In one scene, he allows his son to ride on the bonnet of the car as they drive along Australia's Aldinga Beach.

"Those scenes tend to split people – some people say it's very irresponsible and others think it looks like fantastic fun."

"The film isn't advocating this way of parenting, it's saying this is this guy's approach to it. It's not about being responsible or irresponsible, it's trying to get their lives back on track."

**THE BOYS ARE BACK** Certificate 12A

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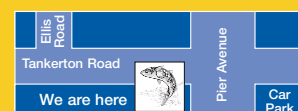
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# yourswaletimeout

## YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

### BELLAMY'S PEOPLE BBC Two, 10pm, Thursday

IT'S rarely that I look forward to a TV show as much as Bellamy's People, the new slice of comedy on BBC Two.

Put together largely by the team that made the Fast Show, with a few others such as Amelia Bullmore added to the mix for good measure, this looked like a cracker from the moment I saw the trailer.

More of a spoof of those 'celebrities meet normal people' series than a sketch show, we meet an array of characters in each episode, each with their own strange stories to tell.

Host Gary Bellamy (Rhys Thomas) takes us up and down the country to meet the real inhabitants of our British Isles.

Bellamy himself is a kind of Alan Partridge-lite character, eager to connect with everyman Britain – especially if there's some good footage that showcases his people skills in it for him.

He is out and about, meeting the eccentrics who phone in to his radio show, but he's really little more than the foil and straight man for those with whom he converses.

We meet the 28-stone, bed-ridden man-mountain Graham Downes (Paul Whitehouse), who is eager to finish off any uneaten bowls of Sugar Puffs left by his mother, and the politically opposed and upper-class Coombes sisters – but there are dozens more.

Of course, all these characters are exaggerations, but this serial gets far closer to telling us about those who walk our streets and live behind the country's net-curtains than EastEnders ever will.

Outright jokes are thin on the



**OUT THERE:** The Fast Show team has come up with another BBC classic, Bellamy's People

ground, but this is a triumph of observation and I dare say you will spot characteristics of people from your own life in the myriad of personas we will meet over the course of the next seven weeks.

Bellamy's People they may be, but these are people you know, with whom you work and socialise, and that is a scary thought.

Be careful out there.

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 19)  
**DEVOTING** time to a creative project gives you a profound sense of contentment. Lately, you've been expending too much energy on other people's needs. Don't be surprised if someone offers to pay you for your work. An admirer may ask you to teach a class.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



**TAURUS** (Apr 21-May 21)  
**SOMEONE** from a foreign country finds you irresistible. It's flattering to get so much attention, but take care this flirtation doesn't threaten a serious relationship. If you're single, feel free to embark on a new romance. Your amour will introduce you to all sorts of new things.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



**LEO** (Jul 24-Aug 23)  
**YOU'VE** always had a weakness for beautiful clothes. This week, you have the opportunity to add something snazzy to your wardrobe for next to nothing. Even if you do end up spending more than you initially planned, don't worry. Your image will open previously-closed doors.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



**SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)  
**TAKING** a short pleasure trip will put the twinkle back into your eye. Recently, you've been slaving away on a work project, trying to add more money to your bank account. Now this particular project is finishing up, you have a wonderful chance to get away.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



**PISCES** (Feb 20-Mar 20)  
**WHO** you know is more important than what you know this week. Whether you're on the lookout for love, employment or fun, reach out to your friends. An earthy woman might have just the opportunity you desire. Let her set you up on a date or job interview.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



**GEMINI** (May 22-Jun 22)  
**YOUR** sex appeal is at an all-time high. Finding love is as simple as crooking your finger in an admirer's direction. The two of you have a powerful physical connection and will spend many enjoyable hours locked in each other's arms. You're sure to turn heads at a glittering party.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



**VIRGO** (Aug 24-Sep 23)  
**BE SURE** to buy yourself a lottery or raffle ticket this week, as your propensity for winning is very strong. If you've developed a strong attraction for a newcomer to your social circle why don't you be brave and ask them for a date? The two of you will hit it off instantly.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 21)  
**SPENDING** more time on the people and activities you enjoy will be a blessed relief. Recently you've been devoting a lot of attention to some very unrewarding group projects, but this will be going out of your life. The opportunity to move to a new neighbourhood could fall arise.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr 20)  
**YOUR** charm and wit goes over well in the work arena. A hidden benefactor could sing your praises to a powerful executive. You helped them when they were just starting out and now they are in an ideal position to return the favour. It just goes to show it pays to be nice.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



**CANCER** (Jun 23-Jul 23)  
**A CLOSE** relationship gives you the courage to try something new. Normally, a traditionalist like you has difficulty venturing into unfamiliar territory. Now, with the help of a business contact, best friend or romantic partner, you have the confidence to embark on an adventure.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



**LIBRA** (Sep 24-Oct 23)  
**RESPONSIBILITIES** which have been weighing on your mind are starting to fade, leaving you more free time to spend with your family. Making improvements to your home gives your spirits a lift. If you can't afford new furnishings, you can check out ways to spruce up old ones.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20)  
**PAYING** careful attention to your appearance will yield rewards. You're not particularly vain, but you do like to look your best. Take careful note of which colours and styles look best on you. This will help narrow down your choices. It will also help you make your money start working for you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

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## CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No122

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

### EASY



### MEDIUM



### HARD



### CRYPTIC CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 1 Carriage squashed a homburg (8)  
6 Nearly half the month in charge with this tank (6)  
9 Instrument not in drink (6)  
10 Honest existence directly comparable to reality (4-4)  
11 How pianist repeatedly was cautious and gentle (6-6)  
13 Minor actor's bonus (5)  
14 River crossing Irish county (9)  
17 Boffin, potentially nicest one, by the way (9)  
19 Political group festivity (5)  
21 Varnish from two countries (6,6)  
24 50 suffering lose strength (8)  
25 How one's eyes lacked shininess when fitted with glass (6)  
26 Behold the boil (6)  
27 Moving free, not, say, from this (4-4)

#### DOWN

- 2 Some pressure Lydia exerted on trust (4)  
3 Lack of self-restraint of a French substitute (9)  
4 Aptly describe ring included by fifth amazingly (3,3)  
5 Girl from Matthew and topless Hilda (7)  
6 Edward, after game, was steamrollered (8)  
7 Spicy dish consumed by pupil afterwards (5)  
8 Pass through antler if it moves (10)  
12 Provoke troublesome bearcat in river (10)  
15 With camera accessory returned to scene of the past (9)  
16 Out of sorts timtice harbouring first parasite (4-4)  
18 Mother's turn to stifle (7)  
20 Dance, injuring leg, in irregular shaking motion (6)  
22 Nearly time, time after sunset (5)  
23 The lady's love for brave man (4)

### SCRIBBLE HERE



### QUICK CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 1 ABC (8)  
6 Wine-vessel (6)  
9 Match statistician (6)  
10 Act out part (4-4)  
11 Yield (7,5)  
13 Cinema film (5)  
14 Of the Eastern Roman Empire (9)  
17 Detailed route (9)  
19 Veracity (5)  
21 Straight off (4,4,4)  
24 Easily bent (8)  
25 Stone table (6)  
26 Newsgroups worldwide (6)  
27 Very high (8)

#### DOWN

- 2 Scottish lake (4)  
3 Capital of Crete (9)  
4 Three-masted vessel (6)  
5 Underjailer (7)  
6 Blind alley (3-2-3)  
7 City in North Yorkshire (5)  
8 Religious brotherhood (10)  
12 Iron grating (10)  
15 Strangler (9)  
16 Flying-fox (5-3)  
18 Vote for again (2-5)  
20 Do wash (anag.) (6)  
22 One from SW USA (5)  
23 Thin (4)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No121

#### EASY



#### MEDIUM



#### HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

### CRYPTIC SOLUTION No121

ACROSS: 1 Squashy 5 Wheyish 9 Saki 10 Sacramento 12 Commando 13 End-all 14 Transforming 17 Torch battery 21 Gnomie 23 Toll road 24 Editorship 25 Lazy 26 Epitome 27 New York DOWN: 2 Quahog 3 Axiomatic 4 Hosanna 6 Heave ho 7 Yield 8 Settling 11 Cross-stitch 15 Mayoralty 16 Joined-up 18 Buckram 19 Ellipse 20 Panzer 22 Motet.

### QUICK SOLUTION No122

TEXAN 23 Lean 16 Fruit-bat 18 Re-elect 20 Shadow 22 Fraternity 12 Portcullis 15 Throatter Barque 5 Turnkey 6 Cut-de-sac 7 Ripon 8 Towning DOWN: 2 Loch 3 Heraklion 4 Bysantine 17 Tithery 19 Tithery 21 Just like Role-play 11 Kinnick under 13 Movie 14 ACROSS: 1 Alphabet 6 Carrie 9 Score 10

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Each topper is made from visco-elastic memory foam, which was originally developed for NASA to provide comfort for astronauts during space flights. This revolutionary foam is weight and temperature sensitive, continuously moulding to your body shape and position in bed, so your weight is distributed and supported evenly. It also helps avoid pressure points, and keeps your spine properly aligned.

Available in standard bed sizes, the 2in (50mm) thick topper simply sits on top of your existing mattress. It comes complete with a machine washable terry toweling zipped cover. The matching Slumberdown Snugfit memory foam pillow is specially contoured to cradle your head at the correct height and alignment.



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8608 Slumberdown Mattress Topper - SK	<b>£139.99</b>	rrp £179.99	<b>save £40</b>
8243 Slumberdown Pillow	<b>£29.99</b>	rrp £39.99	<b>save £10</b>



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## It's not all about The Beatles

■ BY JEREMY GATES

THE legend of The Beatles and their global impact on the 1960s burns brighter than ever, almost half a century on.

My first visit to their hometown was in the Sixties. On later visits I wondered why it was so hard to find a hotel with views of the Mersey.

Maybe Liverpool's reign as European Capital of Culture 2008 solved that little local problem.

That event drew 15 million visitors to cultural events and big attractions, generated £800 million for the local economy and established Liverpool as the biggest draw to foreign visitors outside London – with tourist numbers up almost 190 per cent since 2000.

Now a string of hotels, for all tastes and pockets, lines the waterfront alongside the 'Three Graces' – the Liver, Cunard and Port of Liverpool buildings, all landmarks depicting the city's greatness in the 19th century.

Our base was Jurys Inn Hotel, next door to both the Albert Dock – named a World Heritage site in 2004 for its magnificent Grade I-listed buildings – and a conference and convention centre that stages anything from pop concerts to political meetings.

To pack the key sights into a short stay, get 24-hour tickets for the 'Hop on, hop off' sight-seeing bus which takes in The Cavern, cathedrals, Chinatown, Albert Dock, Mersey Ferry terminal, the Walker Art Gallery and the Tate Liverpool. It's a real bargain at just £8 per adult, £4 per child.

To explore the Liverpool of the past, we headed for the remarkable Maritime Museum, which has astonishing tales of the



**RIVER VIEWS:** The Mersey got a new look during Liverpool's reign as Capital of Culture; right, the city's cathedral

bitter struggle between the Merchant Navy and Nazi subs in the frozen wastes of the Atlantic in the Second World War.

In the same building, the International Slavery Museum details the role of prominent Liverpool-based merchants among exhibits which include original shackles, chains and instruments used for slave punishment.

Outside our hotel, a minibus service provided by the National Trust took visitors to the terraced house in the suburb of Woolton, where John Lennon spent his early years in the care of his Aunt Mimi, and also to the childhood home of Sir Paul McCartney.

In truth, there is little reason for leaving this

Magical Mystery Tour before you see all you wish to see: the expansion of hotels has squeezed room rates, and the landlords who kept Liverpool afloat in the dark days before the tourist hordes descended must be bemoaning their luck.

In the evening, of course, it's time to explore Liverpool's numerous pubs, clubs and places to eat. The Monro is a gastropub, while Alma de Cuba, inside the converted Catholic Church of St Peter's, is among the most popular bars.

Liverpool nightlife is, and always has been, in a class of its own – which might explain why those early-dawn glimpses of Birkenhead across the water often seem so dark and hazy.

### FACT FILE: LIVERPOOL

Jeremy Gates was a guest of Jurys Inn Liverpool, which offers double rooms from £67 per night. Breakfasts cost £7 per person, and parking is £7.50 for 24 hours.

Jurys Inn Liverpool reservations: 0151 244 3777 and [www.jurysinns.com](http://www.jurysinns.com).

Jeremy travelled by Virgin Trains, which offers advance fares for Euston-Liverpool from £22 return (standard class), and £68 (first). Weekend passengers can upgrade to first-class for £15 per person, each way.

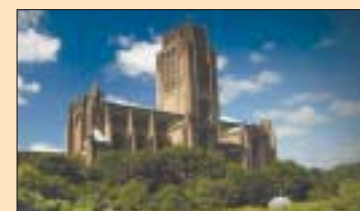
Virgin Trains reservations: 08457 222 333 and [www.virgintrains.com](http://www.virgintrains.com).

Thomas Cook Sport Liverpool Match Breaks for Europa League and Premier League games start at £119 per person, including accommodation, match ticket and programme.

Thomas Cook reservations: 0870 752 0924 and [www.thomascooksport.com](http://www.thomascooksport.com).

Destination details: The Merseyside Partnership (0151 227 2727 and [www.merseyside.org.uk](http://www.merseyside.org.uk)) publishes the Liverpool and City Region Visitor Guide, with lots of information also available on [www.VisitLiverpool.com](http://www.VisitLiverpool.com), where you can also book accommodation.

Seventeen of England's top cities have formed the partnership of [Citybreaks.org.uk](http://Citybreaks.org.uk) as a one-stop shop providing information about events, attractions, insider ideas, travel links, hotel discounts and free information packs delivered to your door.



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## WOMEN seeking men

**MAKE IT LAST** Slim female, 25, 5'10", long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 461558

**MATCH OF THE DAY!** Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5'12, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

**NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...** Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5'11, loves films, walking, darts, pop, singing, me! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

**LOOKIN 4 A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE!** 25yr old female, 5'8, medium-curved body, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTm tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

**FANCY A CUDDLE?** Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5'13, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

**SOUND GOOD?** Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, gosh, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984

**IS ANYONE OUT THERE?** 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTm cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879391

**COULD I BE THE ONE?** Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835

**A FAIRYTALE ENDING!** Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5'10, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

**HORSES FOR COURSES...** Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

**HAPPY DAYS!** Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

**FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...** Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5'03, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

**SEALED WITH A KISS** Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

**STARRY NIGHTS** Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair, enjoys swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

**GROW OLD WITH ME** Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

**SEIZE THE DAY** Loving female, 36, 5'4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

**LOVE TO LOVE YOU** Lovely female, 36, 5'8, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

**HISTORIC MEETING?** Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

## CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897963

**FAMILY ORIENTATED** Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5'8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

**AN AFRICAN DIAMOND** 38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676

**DON'T LET ME DOWN** Pretty, black female, 38, 5'4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684



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**EASY TO LOVE** Lovely African female, 39, 5'14, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460988

**FROM ME TO YOU** Lovely and bored single professional asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925

**SHOW ME HEAVEN** Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, WLTm a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608

**A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE** Lovely, glossy brunette, 35yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

**TAKE A LITTLE TIME** Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for companionship. Sheerness. Box 461145

**FOR A RELATIONSHIP?** Shy but confident-one known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

**TLC ON OFFER** Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, WLTm like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271

**LOVE IS ALL AROUND** Happy-go-lucky, bubbly Blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley. Box 454517

**LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL** Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5'10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

**ANOTHER CHAPTER** Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037

**DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?** Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5'8, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5'10+. Box 461129

**HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU** Audrey here, I live in Seaford, and WLTm caring man. I'm fun loving, loyal, honest, adventurous, and love animals, cooking, music, film, countryside. Box 872159

**STAY TRUE** Attractive, curvy, single mum, size 18, 44, kind, genuine, 5'5", loyal, loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 461830

**SWEET AS HONEY** Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465

**HOW YOU DOING?** Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128

**AIMING HIGH** 6ft blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afternoons). Box 446017

**LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS** Loud-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema, looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102

**ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL** Young-looking 46yr old female, 5'4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5'17, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

**TAKE IT EASY** Maidstone female, 47, looking for someone just for initial company and friendship. Many interests including gardening, cooking and shopping. Box 464973

**YOUNG AT HEART** Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

**ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?** Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

**HELP ME OPEN UP** Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTm male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

**COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPFULLY MORE** Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5'87, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTm similar loving male. Box 443642

**MY PRINCE?** Dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961

**NORMAL GAL** Female, 48, divorced, happy, looking for the one, friendship, laughter, looking for smart, genuine, kind tall honest man, age under 50 is all I ask. Maidstone. Box 866380

**ETERNALLY YOURS** Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5'12, medium build, WLTm genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635

**ANY TAKERS?** Divorced single mum, 49, 5'8, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

**STIMULATING COMPANY** Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTm nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829

**MAKE IT ENJOYABLE** Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460886

**HERE AND NOW** Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

**JUST IMAGINE** Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

**THE RIGHT FIT** Big lady (5'1), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862888

**CARING & PROFESSIONAL** Female 49, 5'14, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100

**LOVELY BUBBLY** Short 5'1yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

**IT COULD BE US** Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5'13, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601

**WOULD LIKE TO BE HAPPY** Looking for someone who enjoys the simple things in life; wind and rain in my face, 53, red hair, warm holidays love mowing the lawn. Box 860558

**YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...** Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 882410

**THE TIME OF MY LIFE** Young lady, 60, retired with various hobbies, including crafting and crosswords, seeking a kind caring gentleman to enjoy life with. Sheerness. Box 859508

**LOVE ME DO** Loving and caring lady, 63, 5'13, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082

**FIGHTING FIT?** Very young 64 year old lady, loves socialising, walks, music, dogs; seeks intelligent, unpretentious ex-forces/freeman lady for committed relationship. Les please leave contact number. Box 462717

**LET'S FALL IN LOVE** Lovely female, 65, 5'12, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763

**Women seeking women** TRUE ROMANCE Fun loving lady, honest, sincere and trust-worthy, 41yrs old and looking for fun, maybe romance with an honest, sincere woman, likes nights in/out etc. Whitstable. Box 464944

**LET'S FIND OUT!** Hi, I'm a fun-loving, kind, passionate lady, 44, 5'8, with a wicked sense of humour, looking for friendship and what ever evolves from there. Kent. Box 877446

**GIRL TO GIRL** Looking for a female to have some fun with. I'm a 47yr old woman, brown hair/eyes, medium build, GSOH and I'm friendly. Margate area. Box 859781

**DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?!** Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

**LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!** Smart petite lady, 56, 5'4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

**MAKE A NEW FRIEND** Fun-loving lady, 58, 5'14, dark hair, single mum! Likes countryside walks, reading, cooking and cosy nights in, seeks similar male. Folkestone. Box 460420

**NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED** Young-looking 60yr old lady from Gillingham, looking for a male for company and good times, loves animals and dining out. Box 463495

**LOTS OF HUGS** Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5'14, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002

**PISCES OR CAPRICORN?** Star-struck lady, 59, 5'13, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; WLTm tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240

**MUSIC TO MY EARS** Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'3", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914

**WALKS ALONG THE COAST** Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

**BE YOURSELF** Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760

**BRIGHTENING UP** Cuddly lady, 61, 5'15, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more, WLTm tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

**ONLY LOVE** Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc, looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791

**SIMPLE PLEASURES** Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build, loves dancing, walking by the sea and WLTm like minded gent. Box 459467

**THE TIME OF MY LIFE** Young lady, 60, retired with various hobbies, including crafting and crosswords, seeking a kind caring gentleman to enjoy life with. Sheerness. Box 859508

**LOVE ME DO** Loving and caring lady, 63, 5'13, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082

**FIGHTING FIT?** Very young 64 year old lady, loves socialising, walks, music, dogs; seeks intelligent, unpretentious ex-forces/freeman lady for committed relationship. Les please leave contact number. Box 462717

**LET'S FALL IN LOVE** Lovely female, 65, 5'12, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763

**Women seeking women** TRUE ROMANCE Fun loving lady, honest, sincere and trust-worthy, 41yrs old and looking for fun, maybe romance with an honest, sincere woman, likes nights in/out etc. Whitstable. Box 464944

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**GIRL TO GIRL** Looking for a female to have some fun with. I'm a 47yr old woman, brown hair/eyes, medium build, GSOH and I'm friendly. Margate area. Box 859781



## MEN seeking women

**SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY** 28yr old guy, 6'11, dark hair, multi-coloured eyes, random sh, likes music, spending time with friends, sport, seeking a quirky girl to share life with. Tonbridge. Box 458800

**LOVE-ONE?** Kent-based male, 25, blonde, into clubbing, going out, tennis, football, seeks female, 20s, for friendship and more. Box 127012

**MY GIRL** Fit 30yr old guy, 6'12, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for a good-looking, bubbly and intelligent girl to share nights out and more. Sheerness. Box 464763

**BOTTLE OF WINE** Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5'8, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

**RECIPE FOR ROMANCE** Seeking lovely black lady to share interests with. I'm male, 36, and enjoy movies, cooking and dining out. Maidstone area. Box 462890

**OUTDOOR TYPE** Adventurous, very outgoing, romantic male, 35, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'7", looking for a feminine lady for fun times, friendship, maybe LTR. Box 430623

**HOP ON! Hi,** I'm Mark, 6ft, slim/medium build, lots of interests including motorcycles, WLTm a kind and honest female to share fun times and laughter with. Box 445124

**INTERESTED?** Genuine male, 39, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'8", medium build, likes cooking, dining out, quiet holidays, seeking a lovely lady for good company. Ramsgate. Box 463493

**TO EACH THEIR OWN** Romantic male, 40, 6'11, slim build, gosh, 32 waist, brown hair/eyes, enjoys football, pop, DIY, socialising with friends, cinema, seeks female, 36-45, gosh, romantic. Sheerness. Box 462768

**BURSTING WITH LOVE** Shy 39 year old man, caring with big heart, looking for that someone to share my life with, into sport, films and having fun. Margate. Box 859647

**IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS** Loving and caring male, 40, 5'8, medium build, average looks, seeks outgoing, loving, caring person to find love with. Canterbury. Box 459290

**NEW TOWN** Good-looking male, 39, fair hair, blue eyes, nice build and height, social, likes holidays, dining out, fit, seeking a woman to go out with. Rochester. Box 460825

**MAKE YOUR MARK** Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5'8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, WLTm someone to be trustworthy and caring. Box 448372

**TO ENJOY LIFE!** Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5'8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, WLTm someone trustworthy and caring to settle down with. Box 448377

**LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR** Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 443750

**HOW ABOUT TODAY?** Looking for love and relationship with nice, genuine woman. I'm male, 42, 5'8, brown hair/blue eyes, enjoys cycling, films, eating in and out. Kent. Box 463958

**NEW BOY IN TOWN** I'm a single guy, 5'8 with bright blue eyes, brown hair, average build, WLTm nice woman to get to know better for a possible LTR. Box 452496

**LET'S BUILD A ROMANCE** Hello, I'm Simon 43, single man in Kent own a construction co. Muscular build, blue-eyed, ruggedly handsome. Looking for a honest and genuine lady. Box 453322

**FALL FOR ME** Single male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 44, easy going, loving, likes cooking, holidays, music, countryside, cinema, seeking lady 34-57 for a loving relationship. Ashford. Box 464746

**IN LOVE** Single 50s male looking for lady for loving friendship. I'm honest, sincere, genuine and love a laugh, hoping for lasting romance. Box 451188

**2 SEATS PLEASE** Richard here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Box 859273

**FANCY A FILM?** Nice down-to-earth gent, 45, 5'10, short hair, slim, likes swimming, reading, DVDs, chats, walks, anything really! Seeks likewise lady who likes a good chat. Chatham. Box 459876

**BE MY BABY** Young looking 47 year old, brown hair, hazel eyes, enjoys sports, travel and cinema, eating out, restaurants; seeks affectionate, loyal, honest lady. West Malling. Box 464927

**TALL DARK AND HANDSOME** Separated male, tall dark and reasonably good looking, enjoys most things in life and am quite laid back and confident. Kent. Box 859221

**CHEMICAL REACTION** Good humoured male, 48, 5'8, slim, short dark hair, divorced, OHCAC, enjoys walking my dog, outdoor life, seeks likewise girl for LTR if chemistry is right...Maidstone. Box 464817

**GET BACK TO ME** Good looking divorced man, 48, 6'11, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Hythe. Box 460338

**49 BUT LOOKS LIKE 30!** Young looking 49yr old male, clean and tidy, romantic, fun and honest, like kisses and cuddles, meals out and country pubs, seeking similar female. Box 888878

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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Dream of home owning may never come true

AN independent housing body has advised that future homebuyers could face average house prices that are 10 times their salary.

Buying a home could become unattainable unless the number of homes being built increases.

A study from new National Housing and Planning Advice Unit said a fifth of non-homeowners think it will take them at least five years before they're able to buy and more than a third believe they will never get onto the property ladder.

The NHPAU was set up by the Government to provide independent advice on improving housing market affordability. Government statistics illustrate that in the year 2000, the average cost of a home was four times the annual salary.

However, by 2006, house price increases meant that homebuyers were looking at seven times their salary.

The demand for housing is on the increase and something must be done or the pressure on the market will only deteriorate. On a further study of 2,700 UK adults, NHPAU discovered the majority states the government need to take action to make housing more affordable.

### The mortgage lending market still 'restrained'

THE Council of Mortgage Lenders has revealed that the number of home loans approved for house purchase fell four per cent in November compared with the previous month.

According to the CML, there were 53,000 mortgages granted to buyers, a fall on October but this was due to a "seasonal dip".

However, the CML did highlight that the figures were still 66 per cent higher than in November 2008.

Remortgaging activity continued to remain at low levels, as a result of the low interest rate environment, said the CML.

The Council added that first-time buyers were still having to put down a hefty deposit of 25 per cent but with interest rates still remaining at the historic low of 0.5 per cent, mortgage interest payments are so affordable for homemovers and first-time buyers.

However, the CML's director general Michael Coogan said: "With substantial deposits still needed to secure a mortgage, the market will continue to be relatively restrained for some time to come."



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**THEY'RE IN THE MONEY:** Overall in 2009 landlords were £12,700 in the black, almost reversing £15,000 losses in 2008 and 2010 is set to see higher returns than 2009

# Landlords look forward to profitable returns

■ BY NICK AMES

THE buy-to-let property market in the UK is looking forward to a promising 2010 after strong returns combined with low arrears made 2009 much better than expected.

Overall in 2009 landlords were £12,700 in the black, almost reversing £15,000 losses in 2008 and 2010 is set to see higher returns than 2009, according to the latest Buy to Let Index from LSL Property Services, the UK's largest residential letting agents.

It also shows that although increases in property values and a recent slight drop in rents caused dip in yields, tenant arrears performed strongly in 2009, contrary to expectations, and landlords enjoyed a 7.6 per cent annual return on their investments by the end

of December 2009.

The value of their properties rose three per cent in the year while rental income after void periods added a further 4.6 per cent. This means that in 2009 a typical landlord made a return of £12,740. This was a combination of modest capital gains of £4,831 on each property and £7,909 in rental income.

By contrast, in 2008, a typical landlord would have lost 8.8 per cent even after allowing for rental income. They lost £23,000 in capital as the property fell in value, and earned £7,900 in rent for the full year, leading to a total loss of £15,100.

"Despite the worst recession in living memo-

ry, and despite house prices continuing to fall for the first few months of 2009, investment returns in buy-to-let were very respectable.

"The £12,700 the average landlord made on a rented property during the year recouped most of the losses in the housing crash of 2008. Brave landlords who added to their portfolios will be celebrating an excellent year," said David Brown, commercial director of LSL Property Services.

Rents ended 2009 0.2 per cent higher than the previous year.

"Landlords must not lose sight of rental income when house prices move up, however. Rents should form the foundation of buy-to-let investment and are key to financing mortgage borrowings. Allowing yields to drop too low is inadvisable," added Mr Brown.

## RICS predicts further house price rises at beginning of 2010

THE Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) has reported that house price growth slowed in December.

Almost one third of surveyors reported price gains than falls during the month. However, the positive balance was lower than in the previous two months.

RICS did point out that a shortage of properties on the market is continuing to drive up house prices and it is predicting further gains in the early part of this year

but this will be followed by modest falls in the latter half of the year, resulting in a small overall rise of one to two per cent.

Many other experts are predicting house prices will be flat over the course of the next 12 months as a result of the current economic uncertainty.

RICS spokesman Jeremy Leaf said: "The recent loss of momentum in prices and the moderation in new buyer interest can be in part attributed to the housing

market pulling down its shutters for Christmas.

"It is likely the new year will see more interest and activity in the market as those who held back start to market their property with renewed optimism," added Mr Leaf.

Many analysts were surprised by the strength in house prices last year. RICS said house prices rose for the seventh consecutive month in December.

This corresponded with many

other house price indices with the Halifax reporting that prices were 1.1 per cent higher in December compared with a year ago – the first annual rise since March 2008.

Meanwhile, RICS said seven out of 12 regions showed price increases in the past three months, while the remainder experienced falls. The biggest gains were experienced in London and the southeast of England.

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## MOTORS NEWS



### Alfa's sporty economy

SPORTING credentials should not bar you from being environmentally-aware – that's the message from Italy's Alfa Romeo.

And it follows the launch of new 'MultiAir' engines (from £15,165) now offered in the popular MiTo supermini line-up, including a 170bhp 1.4 MultiAir Cloverleaf performance flagship (£17,895) that can sprint from 0-62mph in 7.5 seconds yet average at least 45mpg while generating much lower CO2 emissions.

All MultiAir models come with 'Start and Stop' technology too, which cuts and then automatically re-starts the engine at the traffic lights.



### Merc estate showing its 'crammability' class

ONE of the classic quality load-luggers is now available in new generation guise – the Mercedes-Benz E-Class Estate (from £29,785).

It can also be bought with an engine generating as little as 150g/km of CO2 from its exhaust pipe and capable of averaging nearly 50mpg.

'Crammability' is as good as ever with self-levelling rear suspension as standard and a load space claimed to be best in class. Rear seats can be folded down using just one finger says M-B.



### Octavia's new options

SKODA'S popular Octavia model has gained two attractions – an ultra-frugal/low-emission 1.2-litre turbo petrol engine and an economical diesel with DSG gearbox.

The former (from £12,935) underlines a trend towards leaner and cleaner small capacity petrol units, while the latter brings the ultra-flexible double-clutch auto (and manual) DSG to the Octavia's 1.6-litre diesel unit.

The VW-owned Czech marque offers the DSG on the small petrol engine too for extra flexibility and all of these new options can be bought in either Octavia hatch or estate form.



**SHOOTING FOR THE TOP:** Audi's latest A4 is a truly fine car, longer than previous versions with the biggest boot in its class and comes with front wheel and all-wheel drive

# Audi continues drive to the top with its new A4

SALES volumes show Audi still hasn't quite overtaken BMW as the UK's upmarket sector champ.

That VW's snob brand is nicely tucked in on the leader's shoulder though is due largely to the A4, a model defying the mantra that driver-focused cars in this executive sector must be rear-wheel drive, as with the BMW 3-Series, Mercedes-Benz C-Class and Lexus IS.

In response, Audi has made its front-driven contender as good as it can be and also offered it with the all-wheel drive Quattro system for drivers who demand the full handling experience... or the chance to talk about it.

The latest A4 arrived in 2008, putting right a perennial complaint about cabin space, particularly in the back.

It also has the biggest boot in its class.

But the A4 is now a big car and, at 4.72 metres-long by 2.01 wide, it underlines a growth trend, highlighted here by noting that Audi's 1997-2004 A6 – from the market sector above – was 4.79 by 1.99 metres.

The latest A4 is a truly fine car though, so capable in all areas that it is virtually ano-

## ROAD TEST AUDI A4

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

dyne. Whatever the mood, the A4 is so in tune that it slips into the background.

Our road test car was the best-selling A4 2.0 TDI, almost as much of a darling to company car user choosers as the ubiquitous BMW 320d.

In the lower output 120PS (118bhp) SE form as tested (£23,720), it is probably a tad underpowered for the scale of the A4 – there are 143 and 170PS versions – but the ability to average nearly 60mpg is not to be sneered at.

It benefits from a tidy six-speed gearshift, crisp steering and excellent grip and composure in the corners; ride quality is considerably better than the previous car, no doubt helped by the bigger stretch between front and back wheels.

The cabin has the material and ergonomic layout design quality that has made Audi the benchmark brand in its sector.

Needless to say, space and comfort for all is impressive too, although the middle rear seat passenger has to plant his/her feet awkwardly either side of the centre hump.

This accomplished all-rounder may be a hard car to love outright, but it's hard to fault too.



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ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in

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**SUPPORT WORKERS**  
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or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8871.



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## Thanet is a beautiful place to work



Thanet is a great place to live and work. Our historic seaside towns of Ramsgate, Margate and Broadstairs are rich in heritage and opportunity. From the multi-million pound Turner Contemporary Gallery, the fast speed rail link to London, and the popular Westwood Cross shopping centre - this is an exciting time to join Thanet District Council. We are determined to improve the quality of life for local people. We believe that by listening to local people, working in active partnership and by being prepared to do things in an innovative way we can accelerate improvement and best meet the challenges ahead.

### Committee Services Manager

**Salary: £29,895 to £35,007 per annum**

Under the guidance of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, this post will be responsible for managing a small team of officers providing committee and scrutiny services, and will contribute to relevant projects, such as the updating of the Council's constitution and the development of a Member learning & development strategy. Applicants need to be educated to degree level and have considerable experience of committee and scrutiny services, including management experience.

### Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer

**Salary: £26,940 to £30,738 per annum**

This post provides an exciting opportunity for someone with an interest in policy review, because roughly half of the time the post holder will support the Council's overview and scrutiny function. That involves bringing together the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel investigating local issues, the Cabinet Members that take the decisions and the Directors that advise them. A mature approach to undertaking the work is essential, to ensure the scrutiny role adds value to the Council's achievements. The remainder of the time the post holder will provide more general support to some of the Council's other committees, arranging and attending meetings, and taking minutes. Applicants need to be educated to degree level or equivalent.

**The closing date for both positions is: Friday 12 February 2010**

**Interviews will be held: Tuesday 2 or Wednesday 3 March 2010**

For an informal discussion about both positions, please contact Glenn Back on 01843 577187

All posts include generous annual leave, flexible working, a 37-hour week, subsidised bus pass, as well as access to the local government final salary pension scheme.

For an application form and job description for this position, please contact the Human Resources Department on (01843) 577175 (24 hours), e-mail [jobs.hr@partnership@dover.gov.uk](mailto:jobs.hr@partnership@dover.gov.uk) or download an application form from [www.thanet.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/jobs). Applications to be returned to: East Kent H R Partnership, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ

Thanet District Council is an equal opportunities employer committed to employing people with disabilities. Any disabled applicant who meets the minimum criteria for the posts will be guaranteed an interview.

## New Year, New Challenge

**MidKent College have exciting one year secondment opportunities for the following positions:**

**Assistant Principal (£63K)** negotiable subject to experience.

**Head of Faculty (£46K)** negotiable subject to experience.

**Teacher Coach (£33K)** negotiable subject to experience.

MidKent College is a large, successful FE College operating on two main campuses in Medway and Maidstone. Our state of the art, £86 million Medway campus is next door to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College is training all their soldiers in Construction & Engineering under a 30-year contract.

Our recent OFSTED Inspection described the College as 'good' overall with 'outstanding' capacity to improve. We would like to accelerate our improvement agenda by seconding individuals who will relish the chance to undertake a specific improvement project within the College in areas such as A levels, Skills for Life, Construction, Engineering, Teaching and Learning. Whether you are already in FE, working in a school or Sixth Form College, or working elsewhere in education, this is an ideal opportunity to develop your skills in a supportive environment working alongside some high quality senior leaders.

We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups and will meet reasonable living expenses for staff who live outside the area.

The roles above are the indicative levels that we seek secondments at. There is, however, some scope for flexibility for high calibre individuals who can help us on our journey to be "outstanding"

**If you are interested in knowing more please contact our retained consultant Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 or by email [ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk)**



**MidKent College**

*MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer*



## Motor Vehicle Training Instructor & NVQ Assessor

The MV trainer will deliver training and carry out assessments on Motor Vehicle Apprentices from our Rochester training centre and cover the Kent region. You must have good Motor Vehicle practical experience which should include HGV systems. You will be a good communicator with an interest in developing Motor Vehicle Apprentices. You should have basic computer skills such as word processing and spreadsheets. Any candidates with training and assessor qualifications will certainly be of interest although training will be provided for suitably experienced candidates. You will be presentable, flexible, well-organised, self-motivated, prepared to take responsibility and work co-operatively within a team focussed on customers and trainees. You must be able to use your own car to travel throughout Kent.

IPS is a good company to work for with a friendly working environment; the package includes, competitive salary, profit bonus, personal pension, life insurance, medical insurance and other benefits including part time or flexible working arrangements. To apply, email your CV with a covering letter. kimhollands@ips-international.com

*IPS is an equal opportunities employer; we welcome applicants from all sectors of the community, including minority groups*

Apply to, Kim Hollands  
IPS International Ltd  
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Medway City Estate, Rochester  
Kent, ME2 4DU  
E: kimhollands@ips-international.com



## High Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapists

ONE FULL TIME & ONE PART TIME  
£29,789 – £39,273 (PRO RATA FOR PART TIME) ESSENTIAL CAR ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM (PRO RATA FOR PART TIME)  
37.5 HOURS PER WEEK (FULL TIME) • 26 HOURS PER WEEK (PART TIME)  
BASED MEDWAY

KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. We provide a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration and opportunities for further training and career development.

We require two Cognitive Behavioural Therapists to join our Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service within KCA's Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) team. You will be providing high intensity CBT interventions for a range of common mental health problems. You will also provide line management to a number of Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners as well as an advisory service to IAPT colleagues on matters related to practice and delivery of CBT to individuals accessing the service in line with IAPT guidelines and best practice. The role may include group work, if the post holder is qualified and competent.

A diploma in cognitive behavioural therapy is essential, and the applicant must be accredited, or working towards accreditation with the BABCP. Some evening and weekend work may also be required.

To discuss this post informally please contact the Operations Manager, Kerry Smith on 07779 658886 (Monday to Thursday).

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 630.

Closing date: 12 February 2010.  
Interview date: w/c 22 February 2010 in Medway.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity No: 292824

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)



## Require Business Development Co-ordinator Specialising in the Worldwide Delivery Market

An ideal opportunity for an experienced sales professional whose knowledge of the International import and export industry through air, road or sea freight, now seeking a new challenge by utilising their skills in creating and developing new services within our business.

The role will demand an organised, efficient, motivated individual who is able to be creative, supervise, liaise and generate growth from existing and potential new clients. Drawing from previous experience the development of new routes and outlets for these high quality services will be within the role.

Working within a small sales team the position will be a combination of field and office based duties where liaison with suppliers and clients will need the benefit of operational and IT experience.

The candidate should be articulate with good communication skills, along with the experience and ability to negotiate contracts and meet financial targets creating increased profitability.

All applications should be accompanied by a full CV outlining relevant experience, salary and benefit expectations to fulfill this position and forwarded to:

**Mr Andrew Dixon**  
**Candy Carriers**  
**Unit F3 Broadoak Enterprise Village**  
**Broadoak Road**  
**Sittingbourne**  
**Kent ME9 8AQ**

## Service Engineer

**Ramsgate**  
**£26,241 plus benefits**

Serving 182 stations, Southeastern runs train services in Kent, South East London and part of East Sussex. These are exciting times, as we started operating the new High Speed service in December 2009. We have also been investing heavily in our development programmes, making this an excellent opportunity for you to progress your career.

Working on our fleet as part of a team, you will be responsible for carrying out a range of routine repairs, examination work and first level fault finding as directed by our Production Delivery Engineer.

To do this you need to be experienced in skilled mechanical or electrical work and capable of passing a medical to an engineering standard. You must be able to carry out first level fault finding and follow schematics and diagrams. It would be an advantage if you are familiar with rolling stock maintenance.

We offer an impressive benefits package including Final Salary Pension Scheme and free travel on Southeastern, Southern and London Midland rail services. After a qualifying period you can enjoy reduced rate rail travel on other train operators, including European travel, and reduced rate leisure rail travel for your spouse and any dependent children.

To apply for an information and application pack please email your details to [careers@southeasternrailway.co.uk](mailto:careers@southeasternrailway.co.uk) quoting reference KOS/01.

Closing date: 10th February 2010.

[www.southeasternrailway.co.uk](http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk)

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*"Working and Caring for Children since 1972"*

### SOCIAL WORKER

Thanet

An exciting opportunity to join an Outstanding Independent Fostering Provider Ethelbert Childrens Services Fostering Team requires an appropriately qualified person to join their Team of Supervising Social Workers. Registration with the GSCC is essential as is the commitment to achieve the very best outcomes for children and young people in our care. The successful candidate can expect to receive a competitive salary and employment package.

For further information or an informal chat please call  
Lynn Wilkinson or Debi Atkin on 01843 229522.  
Closing Date: 31 January 2010

Please visit our website for further information or contact the Personnel Department for an Application Form at Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ 01843 823762 or at [www.jobs.ethelbertonline.co.uk](http://www.jobs.ethelbertonline.co.uk)

Due to a recent increase in demand we also require

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Throughout Kent and SE London

We are seeking to recruit Foster individuals or couples who can show excellence in childcare or who have similar relevant experience or backgrounds.

Excellent supervision and 24 hour support, individualised professional training and more will be your reward for joining this Outstanding Team of Foster Carers.

Please contact Lynn Wilkinson or Debi Atkin on 01843 229522 for an informal discussion and an application pack or find us at [www.ethelbert.net](http://www.ethelbert.net)

*We are an equal opportunities employer*

## ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Based in Maidstone

Whitehouse Maidstone is looking for an Accounts Assistant for 2 days per week.

Flexible time on Tuesday and Wednesday. Experience of working in accounts is necessary.

To apply please submit your CV via email to [Yvonne.root@whitehousegroup.co.uk](mailto:Yvonne.root@whitehousegroup.co.uk) or by post to

**Whitehouse Maidstone, 1-17 The Broadway, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8QX**



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Biddenden

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Or by post

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Primary or Secondary experience; interest in Maths, Science or ASDAN advantage. Specialist training offered.

Tydeman Centre 'outstanding' - OFSTED April 2009

Contact Ann Noble to visit.

Further details / forms from career opportunities link on website: [www.themallingschool.kent.sch.uk](http://www.themallingschool.kent.sch.uk)

Applications to Elaine Greenwood  
[elaine.greenwood@mhffederation.co.uk](mailto:elaine.greenwood@mhffederation.co.uk)  
by Friday 29 January 2010

## PARTS ADVISOR

Based in Maidstone

Whitehouse Maidstone is looking for a Parts Advisor with either Crystler, Jeep or Hyundai experience.

A competitive salary is offered with 22 days holiday per annum.

To apply please submit your CV via email to [darren.fiddes@whitehousegroup.co.uk](mailto:darren.fiddes@whitehousegroup.co.uk) or by post to

**Whitehouse Maidstone, 1-17 The Broadway, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8QX**

CV and current salary to  
Churchill House, Spencer Square, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9EQ  
Deborah.Cook@churchillhouse.co.uk

Unit 1C Jetty Road, Kingsnorth Industrial Estate, Hoo Rochester, Kent ME3 9ND  
E Mail : [info@porterscraft.co.uk](mailto:info@porterscraft.co.uk) Web Site : [www.porterscraft.co.uk](http://www.porterscraft.co.uk)  
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**MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:**

We have an exciting opportunity to recruit a passionate individual to teach, assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes. The applicant must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

We are looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the instruction and assessment of a range of Catering and Hospitality programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and recent experience within the industry and hold the A1 and V1 awards or be willing to work towards them.

As a Personal tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification.

**MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer**



1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Protection Regulations 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the contract appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or its authorised advertiser shall be removed or refused, all passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser agrees that KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently without notice over the medium of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified and approved by the advertiser prior to being used. Any damages as a result of misuse have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings advertised by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where the shrinkage of an advertisement occurs where whatever reason, the advertiser will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd does not accept the right to refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A claimant who has made a complaint to the relevant authority shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error/inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. If the advertiser accepts the conditions set out above, they agree to delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor loss of damage to any work supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd shall be made immediately to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership if the advertiser should deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertiser's written consent is required for any subsequent insertions. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which will not be advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the advertiser's annual advertising rate. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment to the advertiser. The advertiser agrees to pay the difference between the actual rate relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be applied and any amount due to the advertiser will be paid back to the advertiser by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Should any contracts, agreements, advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be involved in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser fail to appear on the day and time specified, sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete the advertiser's TV commercial. The advertiser agrees to the terms of this agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the sole responsibility of the advertiser to obtain the appropriate permissions. No changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills (pictures and/or photographs) taken from the advertiser's archive. The advertiser supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required by the advertiser to replace the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Standard, etc.) other than they will be ranked according to the search engine criteria of optimisation within the Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze.
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers purchased within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims made against the advertiser will be dealt with by the advertiser.
22. A. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring must be paid in full, and the Advertiser agrees to the right of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd to:
- B. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any claim for breach of contract.
- C. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum prime rate of National Westminster Bank plc.
- D. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
- E. The advertiser will be liable for all cases covered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
- F. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. As part of the contract which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by Creative Europe Limited as the agency of record for the advertiser. In the absence of terms of that recognition, this commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threats of legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with these terms and conditions.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertiser may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.
- All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the benefit of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

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Picture: ICOR KUPCO



RESULT: Leanne Payne hit a brace for Court

## Court give promotion hopefuls testing time

TWO Leanne Payne strikes helped Gore Court's ladies to one of their best results of the season on Sunday as promotion-chasing St Albans were made to settle for a point.

Payne gave Court the lead with a fine strike early on but the Hertfordshire side were soon ahead with two goals in quick succession.

However, Court were awarded a penalty stroke just before half-time and Rachael Lukehurst calmly slotted home to level the scores at 2-2.

Once more, St Albans stole ahead but Payne was to have the final word as she converted from a short corner and Court left sat-

### HOCKEY

#### Gore Court 3 St Albans 3

isied to have earned the draw.

There was not such good news for the Sittingbourne side on Saturday when they went down 3-1 to Brentwood, despite taking the lead through captain Hayley Surridge.

Court's concentration lapsed to allow Brentwood back into the game and they found themselves 2-1 down at half-time. As Court pressed for the equaliser, Brentwood

broke away on the counter and added a third to rubber-stamp the win.

Elsewhere, things are hotting up at the top of Premier Division Two, where Court's men are now level on points with Barnes, with Wycombe only one point behind.

Neither of the top two were able to win on Saturday, with Court drawing 4-4 at Eastbourne while Barnes lost 4-3 at home to Oxford Hawks.

Aaron Glass scored twice for Court to take his season's tally to 28, while Jamie Brook and Adam Hart were also among the goals in East Sussex.

### RUGBY

Picture: ICOR KUPCO



MAGNIFICENT: Sheppey produced great display

## Determination gets Islanders a victory

#### Old Olavians 14 Sheppey 30

DYLAN Davies scored two tries on his debut as Sheppey produced a magnificent display to record only their second win of a disappointing season.

The win keeps the Islanders in touch with the sides immediately above them in Kent 1 and followed a determined display against high-flying Cranbrook, who were fortunate to win 3-0 at The Ditch seven days earlier.

However, it was Olavians who struck first on Saturday when a pass from Ethan Roach was intercepted by Liam Connor and he ran through to score under the posts. The try was converted but Brad Box kicked two penalties for Sheppey in quick succession to close the gap to 7-6.

Following a prolonged spell of Sheppey pressure, Box opted to kick for goal again and the visitors were ahead for the first time. They then dropped their guard, though, and Emmanuel Akinluoyi was gifted the softest of tries as the hosts went in 14-9 ahead.

Sheppey flew out of the blocks after the break and their rampant scrum allowed Davies to cross for his first try, with Box adding the conversion.

The game was now being played almost exclusively in the Olavians' 22 and Sheppey's forward dominance was rewarded when Steve Croall trundled over. This time Roach kicked the extras and Sheppey led 23-14.

The game was finally put beyond doubt when Sheppey took a scrum against the head and Davies completed the perfect debut as he collected Roach's pass and crossed to score.

Elsewhere, Sittingbourne did their neighbours a favour as they won 22-17 at home to HSBC, who are now just two points above Sheppey at the bottom.



THIS week we launched a bid to right a wrong – and get Dame Kelly Holmes the gold medal she still craves.

In a campaign we will take to the very top of world athletics, we want drug cheat Regina Jacobs stripped of the gold she won at the World Indoor Athletics Championships in 2003.

She pipped our Kelly into second place – but just weeks later was exposed as a drug cheat; testing positive for steroids.

Now KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper, is launching a bid to win our local heroine the title we feel should now be rightfully hers.

Holmes, who won two gold medals at the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004, was beaten into second place at the indoor 1500m event in Birmingham in March, 2003, by Jacobs.

But Jacobs later failed a drugs test after winning at the US Championships in June.

She was handed a four-year ban, but aged 40 at the time, decided to call time on her career. Jacobs, who has always protested her innocence, was stripped of the national title, but because the World Indoors preceded the failed test, the result in Birmingham still stands.

#### Review

We now urge the sport's governing body – the International Association of Athletics Federations – to review this decision in light of a recent case in which Great Britain's 1997 4x400m relay team were awarded the World title after finishing second to a US team which included Antonio Pettigrew.

He admitted using banned substances at the time and consequently, the GB team found out this month they will get their gold medals after the four athletes began a campaign in 2008.

Holmes, from Hildenborough, near Tonbridge, admits the defeat to an athlete who was later found to be using performance enhancing drugs, still rankles.

"I think [the medal] should be taken away from that athlete if they have been done for drugs," she said. "If they have been caught in that year of competition, well they actually didn't just get caught doing it right there and then did they? It was before that."

"[Regina Jacobs] was somebody who was banned that season and yet she wasn't stripped of the gold medal she won in March of that year and I think that's wrong."

"If you have been banned, give back the medal from that year. She got caught and banned and there's a logic to say that, okay, she got caught in June it's more than likely she was using it in March as well. So then give back the medals, not so much mine, but they should be given back as a general rule."

# Gold should have our Kelly's name on it



Picture: GETTY IMAGES

FOOL'S GOLD: Kelly Holmes can barely hide her contempt as she loses the World Indoor 1500m final to Regina Jacobs in Birmingham in 2003 – Jacobs later failed a drugs test

Eyebrows had been raised six weeks prior to the Birmingham meet when Jacobs, then 39, became the first woman to run 1500 metres in under four minutes indoors, breaking a 13-year world record.

For Holmes, the World Indoor title is one accolade missing from her glittering CV.

"For me, the worst thing was that it was in Birmingham and I would have loved to have stood there as World Indoor champion, but instead I was a silver medallist which is a great achievement, but not when you have done it against a druggie at the end of the day," she said.

KOS Media will lobby the IAAF to re-examine the case and is urging readers to send in their letters of support to help the campaign.

Sports editor Glenn Pearson said: "We feel this is something that needs looking into and the record should be set straight. Dame Kelly has strong views against the use of drugs in sport and so do we."

"We urge our readers to get involved with our campaign."

• Send letters of support to KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, TN25 6SR or by email at [sports@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:sports@kosmedia.co.uk).

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# Kayembe and Bradbrook reignite play-off charge

## FOOTBALL

BY STEVE Tervet

### Sittingbourne 4

Kayembe 24, Bradbrook 28, 69, Akhazzan 71

### Corinthian Casuals 1

Seargant 70

**SITTINGBOURNE'S** play-off charge is well on track after they turned in a sparkling display to see off a very average Corinthian Casuals side at Bourne Park.

Having not played since Boxing Day, the Brickies could have been forgiven for looking a little rusty, but they flew out of the traps from the first whistle and proceeded to dominate throughout.

Led by the lively Elie Kayembe in attack, the hosts looked menacing every time they went forward and only the post kept out Kayembe's thunderous shot in the sixth minute.

The forward was not to be denied for much longer, though, and when Casuals lived up to their name with a horribly lazy back-pass, Kayembe pounced and rounded goalkeeper Luke Naughton to score.

It was 2-0 four minutes later, with Tom Bradbrook the beneficiary of a Jimmy Bottle cross which Naughton palmed into his path.

Deren Ibrahim was enjoying a quiet afternoon



**OPENER:** Elie Kayembe scores Sittingbourne's first goal  
Picture IGOR KUPCO

until the closing stages of the half, when he showed fine reflexes to tip James Carr's drive over and preserve Bourne's two-goal cushion.

By this stage, Casuals were arguing amongst themselves and half-time saw Brian Adamson make a double change. Ali Wiltshire, one of the two players to enter the fray, briefly sparked the visitors as he twice went close but the result was soon put beyond doubt.

Hicham Akhazzan's cross from the right was perfectly flighted and Tom Bradbrook powered

his header past Naughton to make it 3-1. Casuals struck back instantly, though, when Kane Seargant's left-wing free-kick crept in at the far post.

Less than a minute later, Sittingbourne had a fourth. The visitors' defence parted and Akhazzan raced through to shoot low into the net for his 16th of the season.

There was still time for Bradbrook to miss a late penalty and his chance of a hat-trick, but manager Gary Abbott was delighted with his side's performance.

He said: "We worked hard in training to get our sharpness and it showed. Tom and Elie are getting a partnership going up front and they've got to keep working at that."

"We've said all along we've got nothing to lose – no-one expects us to do anything. We're going to attack teams, I know we're going to score goals and we've got the best two centre-halves in the league so it's all good at the moment."

## Harper offers support to struggling Sittingbourne

**FORMER** Sittingbourne goalkeeper Lee Harper has offered the Bourne Park club his support as they fight to preserve their existence beyond the end of the season.

The 38-year-old, who made over 300 Football League appearances, is now player-manager at Blue Square Premier side Kettering Town and admitted it would be heartbreaking to see the Swale club go out of business.

Harper was part of the Brickies side which rose from the Kent League to the verge of the Vauxhall Conference in the space of three years, before Arsenal paid £150,000 for his services in June 1994.

On hearing of Sittingbourne's plight, Harper expressed his shock and offered his help towards the club which gave him the platform for a fine career.

He said: "I wouldn't have achieved what I have in the game and I wouldn't have played for a great club like Arsenal if it wasn't for Sittingbourne."

"It's sad to hear they're struggling and I will contact them to see if there's anything I can do because I can get them shirts and things like that. When I was there, the club was really going places and I've got fond memories because of what they did for me in terms of my move to Arsenal."

## Baverstock nets second half winner to ease the pressure

## FOOTBALL

### Corinthian 0 Norton Sports 1

**ASHLEY** Baverstock scored the only goal as Norton scrapped out a crucial win at Corinthian which keeps them well clear of the Kent League drop zone.

Having played just one league game since November, Ben Taylor's side were simply glad to take to the field, particularly on Corinthian's fine playing surface.

The home side made the brighter start, with their speedy wide men causing problems for the Norton defence. Despite this, Norton held their shape well and goalkeeper Chris Smith was not unduly troubled in the early stages.

As the half progressed, Norton came into the game a little more – mainly through the pace of Jamie Sharman down the right flank – but they were unable to create anything of note and half-time arrived with the score sheet blank.

Baverstock moved to a more central role after the break, but still Corinthian continued to have the lion's share of the possession and the Norton defence was hard-pressed to keep them at bay.

Michael Green was working hard to gain a foothold in the midfield area and on 63 minutes he started the move which led to Baverstock's winner. Sharman collected the ball from Green and knocked a good ball into the box, leaving Baverstock to volley home from 15 yards.

The inevitable late flourish from Corinthian came in the form of several long-



**REWARD:** Ben Taylor's Norton Sports battled hard for their crucial win at Corinthian at the weekend

range efforts but the home side failed to register a shot on target all afternoon and Norton dug in to record their third win in four league outings.

## FOOTBALL



PICTURE NICK HANCOCK

**BRACE:** Damian Abel was on top form

## Damian at the double to put Town ten clear

### Fisher 1 Faversham Town 3

**THE** gap at the top of the Kent League is ten points after Damian Abel's double helped Faversham Town to a 3-1 win at lowly Fisher.

Abel, whose future has been the subject of much speculation recently, had not scored for five months and Town manager Justin Luchford was full of praise for his prize asset.

He said: "That game was all about Damian Abel – he's all I've talked about recently. He hadn't scored since August and it was playing on his mind."

"He's the one everyone keeps coming in for and I'm always desperate to keep hold of him. He's stayed loyal and he deserved his two goals – his performance showed where he wants to be."

### Honest

"Hythe Town have already been in for two of my players [Abel and Lee Shearer] and both have turned them down. I don't see any of my players leaving Faversham – that's not arrogant, I've just been honest with my players and there are honest with me."

Faversham, missing the suspended Ashley Brown, opened the scoring late in the first-half when Shearer powered home a header from a corner but Luke Coleman levelled two minutes after the break.

Richard Sinden was sent off after being shown a second yellow card for simulation – a decision which baffled Luchford – but Abel sealed the win with two fine goals.

First, he cut inside and fired home brilliantly from 25 yards and he then lobbed the Fisher goalkeeper in stoppage-time following Dave Soutan's through-ball.

Luchford said: "It was a good week for us – Hollands & Blair [who Town beat in the cup] and Fisher are not particularly easy fixtures and I was nervous before both games. I wanted us to bounce back and put two wins together, although I would have been happy with a draw at Fisher."

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**Mark Stimson** discusses his hopes for Gillingham's trio of new signings

## LEAGUE TABLES

(Not including midweek games)

### RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta	22	16	5	1	+20	53
2 Worthing	23	14	2	7	+17	44
3 Godalming Town	21	13	3	5	+17	42
4 Croydon Athletic	20	11	6	3	+24	39
5 Fleet Town	22	12	3	7	+14	39
6 Walton & Hersham	23	11	5	7	+6	38
7 Ramsgate	22	9	6	7	+5	33
8 Merstham	24	9	6	9	-4	33
9 Chatham Town	24	10	3	11	-8	33
10 Sittingbourne	19	9	4	6	+10	31
11 Dulwich Hamlet	23	7	10	6	+2	31
12 Burgess Hill Town	21	8	6	7	+2	30
13 Horsham YMCA	24	6	10	8	0	28
14 Leatherhead	20	8	3	9	+3	27
15 Whyteleafe	22	8	3	11	+2	27
16 Corinthian-Casuals	22	8	3	11	-6	27
17 Walton Casuals	22	6	5	11	-8	23
18 Metropolitan Police	21	5	7	9	+1	22
19 Chipstead	24	5	6	13	-15	21
20 Whitstable Town	22	6	2	14	-26	20
21 Eastbourne Town	24	3	8	13	-26	17
22 Ashford Town	19	2	6	11	-30	12

### KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

1 Faversham Town	16	12	2	2	+26	38
2 Herne Bay	13	9	1	3	+13	28
3 Erith & Belvedere	15	9	0	6	+3	27
4 Sevenoaks Town	14	7	3	4	+6	24
5 Beckenham Town	14	7	2	5	+9	23
6 Hythe Town	12	6	4	2	+19	22
7 Tunbridge Wells	17	5	7	5	-1	22
8 Deal Town	14	6	4	4	-2	22
9 Greenwich Borough	14	6	3	5	0	21
10 Sporting Bengal United	16	5	4	7	-12	19
11 Erith Town	12	5	3	4	+6	18
12 Norton Sports	13	5	1	7	-4	16
13 Holmesdale	14	4	1	9	-6	13
14 Fisher	17	3	3	11	-20	12
15 Corinthian	14	2	3	9	-16	9
16 Lordswood	11	0	3	8	-21	3

**FIXTURES (Saturday):** Ryman One South: Ramsgate v Sittingbourne; Kent League Premier Division: Norton Sports v Tunbridge Wells

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